

SOMBER 68TH ANNIVERSARY IN HIROSHIMA

SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI
Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Japan marked the 68th anniversary Tuesday of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima with a somber ceremony to honor the dead and pledges to seek to eliminate nuclear weapons.



Paper lanterns float along the Motoyasu River that runs by the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, western Japan, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013. (AP Photo/S. Kambayashi)

Some 50,000 people stood for a minute of silence in Hiroshima's peace park near the epicenter of the early morning blast on Aug. 6, 1945, that killed up to 140,000 people.

The bombing of Nagasaki three days later killed tens of thousands more, prompting Japan's surrender to the World War II Allies.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, among many dignitaries attending the event, said that as the sole country to face nuclear attack, Japan has the sacred duty to seek to wipe out nuclear weapons. He made no mention of the dilemma this resource-scarce country is facing over nuclear energy.

Continued on page 2

HOUSE PARTY



President Barack Obama smiles as he speaks about housing, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, in Phoenix. Obama was in Arizona to discuss the economy and the middle class, and to outline his plan to overhaul U.S. mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

(AP Photo/Matt York)

Obama proposes Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac overhaul

JACKIE CALMES

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WASHINGTON - In another sign that the housing market has strengthened, President Barack Obama on Tuesday outlined his long-awaited ideas for overhauling the mortgage finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to significantly reduce the government's risk in any future credit crisis. In an appearance in Phoenix, Obama endorsed bipartisan efforts in the Sen-

ate to wind down the two companies and end their longtime implicit guarantee of a federal government bailout. That dread prospect, once thought improbable, was realized in the fall 2008 financial crisis;

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, then bankrupt, were rescued at great cost to taxpayers, who only now are being repaid.

Continued on page 4

Egypt bristles as US Senators urge freeing prisoners

AYA BATRAWY
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Two U.S. Senators came to Egypt Tuesday with a message for the country's new military-backed leaders: Release Islamist figures as a gesture

dent Adly Mansour in a brief statement as "unacceptable interference in internal politics."

The new leadership, emboldened by mass demonstrations of support, showed no sign of willingness to release Muslim

nounced that two Morsi aides would be jailed and face charges of inciting violence in December when Muslim Brotherhood members attacked a sit-in by protesters outside Morsi's office that sparked clashes, killing 10 people.

Brotherhood-led sit-ins in two major intersections of the capital. Some 250 people have been killed in various clashes since Morsi's ouster.

The Brotherhood is demanding Morsi's reinstatement as Egypt's first freely elected president while the new government vows to push ahead with fresh elections early next year.

The McCain-Graham visit was carried out at U.S. President Barack Obama's request, but their message differed from his. For one thing, they called what happened on July 3 a coup, a word the administration avoided because it would trigger a suspension of the \$1.3 billion a year in U.S. military aid to Egypt.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said "Our position has not changed" regarding the word "coup." "Sen. McCain and Sen. Graham are certainly entitled to their opinions, just as any member of Congress is."

At a news conference in Cairo after meeting government officials, military leaders and members of the Brotherhood's political wing, the senators stressed the need to free prisoners. "It is impossible to talk with somebody who's in jail. That

is not a sustainable model that will allow transition to occur," said Graham.

"The status quo is unacceptable. Something's got to give," he said.

He also said his message to the government is: "If you think you can negotiate with people who are in jail and that's the way you're going to negotiate, you're making a huge mistake."

Echoing that sentiment, McCain said the Brotherhood must be included in Egypt's transition.

"Our purpose is to try to urge our friends toward a process that can avert a very serious situation that can affect not only the Arab world, but also the United States."

Graham suggested that U.S. military aid could be at risk.

"We cannot support Egypt that is not moving toward democracy. Our aid is going to be tied to what's best, from our point of view, for the world, Egypt and the region," he said.

McCain, however, said cutting off aid "would have been the wrong thing to do and the wrong time."

The two Senators also said they made clear that they want the Brotherhood to renounce violence before negotiations start. □



U.S. Senators John McCain, left, and Lindsey Graham, right, talk during a press conference in Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013. The two senior U.S. senators have urged Egypt's military-backed government to release detained members of the Muslim Brotherhood before starting negotiations.

(AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

to the Muslim Brotherhood or risk making "a huge mistake."

The message from Republican Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham met with a sharp response, denounced by interim Presi-

Brotherhood figures whom McCain called "political prisoners" and whom the government plans to prosecute for allegedly inciting violence.

As the senators made their rounds, authorities an-

At stake is stability in the Arab world's most populous country. The new leadership is facing international calls to ease its crackdown on Morsi's group while also dealing with calls by millions of Egyptians to clear

Japan marks 68th anniversary of Hiroshima bombing

Continued from Front

Abe also made no mention of the tens of thousands of people displaced by risks from radioactivity from a nuclear disaster in Fukushima, in its northeast. Most of Japan's nuclear power plants were taken offline after the massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011 damaged reactors at a plant in Fukushima, causing meltdowns. Abe favors restarting plants under new safety guidelines, while many Japanese oppose such restarts.

There are over 200,000 "hibakusha," surviving victims from the atomic bombings, with an average age of nearly 79. Many gath-

ered in Hiroshima to burn incense, bowing in prayer. In a "peace declaration" speech, Hiroshima's mayor, Kazumi Matsui, described the pain of those who survived, only to be shunned as contaminated by the radiation.

"The atomic bomb is the ultimate inhumane weapon and an absolute evil. The hibakusha, who know the hell of an atomic bombing, have continuously fought that evil," he said. Matsui chided the government for its efforts to restart the nuclear plants and to export nuclear technology to other countries. "This summer, eastern Japan is still suffering the aftermath of the great earthquake and the nuclear accident. □



Residents of Hiroshima hold paper lanterns before releasing them into the Motoyasu River, wishing for the world peace in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, western Japan, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013. Japan marked the 68th anniversary Tuesday of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima with a somber ceremony to honor the dead and pledges to seek to eliminate nuclear weapons.

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)



A memorial for Noah Barthe, 4 and his brother Connor Barthe, 6, sits outside the Reptile Ocean exotic pet store in Campbellton, New Brunswick, Canada, on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013. The boys were killed by an escaped python.
(AP Photo/John LeBlanc)

Python's strangling of 2 boys in Canada probed

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — A 100-pound (45-kilogram) python blamed in the strangling deaths of two Canadian boys apparently escaped from its enclosure, slithered through a ventilation system and fell through the ceiling into the room where the young brothers were sleeping, authorities said Tuesday.

A snake expert said it was possible that the python was spooked and simply clung to whatever it landed on. Police are treating the deaths in Campbellton, New Brunswick, as a criminal investigation.

Autopsies on Noah Barthe, 4 and his brother Connor Barthe, 6, were being performed Tuesday. The brothers had been visiting the apartment of a friend whose father owned an exotic pet store on the floor below, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. Alain Tremblay said at a news conference in Campbellton. Tremblay said the African rock python was being kept inside the second floor apartment, not inside the pet store as authorities had previously stated. Steve Benteau, a spokesman for the provincial Natural Resources Department, said no permit was issued for an African rock python and the province wasn't aware it was being kept at the apartment. The department said the snake is generally only permitted in accredited zoos, unless

there is a special permit.

Tremblay said the snake was housed in a large glass enclosure that reached the ceiling of the apartment and escaped through a small hole in the ceiling connected to the ventilation system. He said the snake made its way through the ventilation system and moved toward the living room, where the boys were sleeping. The pipe collapsed and the snake fell. The friend of the boys was sleeping in another room and was unharmed. The pet store owner, Jean-Claude Savoie, told the Global News television station that he didn't hear a sound and discovered the "horrific scene" when he went into his living room on Monday morning. "I can't believe this is real," Savoie said. He said the boys were the children of his best friend and were often at his apartment to visit his son. Savoie said the python, which he has had for at least 10 years, had been kept alone in its enclosure and was not handled by anyone else. Police said the snake was killed by a veterinarian. It was sent for a necropsy to confirm the type of snake and help understand what may have caused it to attack.

Family spokesman Dave Rose, the boys' great-uncle, said the brothers had spent Monday at Savoie's family farm and played with different animals before staying over at the apartment. □

Fort Hood gunman meticulously planned attack

Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)

— Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, who fired 146 bullets in his deadly assault on Fort Hood, calmly told the jury that he killed 13 people and wounded 32 others in the 2009 attack as the Army psychiatrist's long-delayed trial began in a Texas military courtroom. With his life hanging in the balance, Hasan made little effort to defend himself. Acting as his own attorney, his only utterance of regret for one of the worst acts of gun violence in U.S. history was an acknowledgment that he was among "imperfect Muslims trying to establish the perfect re-

tender kit so his pistol could hold more bullets.

If convicted, Hasan could get the death penalty. No American soldier has been executed since 1961, and military prosecutors showed that they would take no chance of fumbling details that could jeopardize any conviction. They described a calculating Hasan, armed with two handguns and carrying paper towels in his pants pockets to conceal the sounds of rattling ammunition as he walked through a deployment-readiness center on the sprawling base.

"He came to believe he had a jihad duty to murder

said.

On the day of the attack, Hasan sat among his fellow soldiers who were preparing to go overseas. He tried to clear the area of civilians, even walking over to a civilian data clerk to tell her she was needed elsewhere in the building because a supervisor was looking for her. The prosecutor said the clerk thought that was odd but went anyway.

"He then yelled 'Allahu akbar!' and opened fire on unarmed, unsuspecting and defenseless soldiers," Henricks told the jury of 13 officers.

During Tuesday's proceedings, Hasan mostly looked



A U.S. soldier checks a car entering the court house parking lot where the court-martial of Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan is beginning, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, in Fort Hood, Texas. After years of delays, the trial of the man who carried out the Fort Hood shooting is starting, with Hasan representing himself against charges of murder and attempted murder for the 2009 attack that left 13 people dead on the Army post.
(AP Photo/LM Otero)

ligion."

"The evidence will clearly show that I am the shooter," he said in an opening statement that lasted little more than a minute. The evidence, he added, would "only show one side."

Hasan, an American-born 42-year-old, was paralyzed after being shot by officers responding to the attack. He spoke from a wheelchair, wearing green Army fatigues and a gray, bushy beard.

Hasan planned the assault for months, prosecutor Col. Steve Henricks said, describing how the defendant stockpiled bullets, practiced at a shooting range and bought an ex-

his fellow soldiers," Henricks said, adding that Hasan had researched Taliban leaders' call to wage holy war.

The government has also said Hasan sent more than a dozen emails starting in December 2008 to Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical U.S.-born Islamic cleric killed by a drone strike in Yemen in 2011.

The shooting happened about three weeks after Hasan learned he would be deploying to Afghanistan. Upon getting the orders that he was going overseas, Hasan told a base doctor that, "They've got another thing coming if they think they are going to deploy me," Henricks

down or straight ahead, occasionally leaving through paperwork while seated at the defense table. He spoke politely from his wheelchair, talking so softly at times that families of victims leaned forward to hear him.

Hasan declined to cross-examine any of the witnesses he shot or those who recounted his firearm purchases at a store called Guns Galore in nearby Killeen.

But he didn't pass on a chance to cross-examine his former supervisor, who had given Hasan high marks on an evaluation the very week of what Hasan would only call "the incident." □

Obama proposes Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac overhaul

Continued from Front

The president made clear that he would only sign into law a measure that puts private investors primarily at risk for the two companies, which buy and guarantee many mortgages from banks to provide a continuing stream of money for lenders to provide to additional home buyers. An acceptable measure also must specify the government's role and liabilities for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and - unlike legislation in the Republican-controlled House - must ensure Americans' continued access to a 30-year mortgage at a fixed interest rate. House Republicans would let the market determine

whether to provide the long-standard mortgages, but the White House and the bipartisan Senate groups say that would make a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage harder to get and more costly. After years in which the formerly formidable Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and their congressional allies blocked proposals for payment of fees or risk premiums, Obama is calling for financial institutions to pay an assessment to the government on the value of mortgage-backed securities. Under his proposals, the revenue would help finance assistance for borrowers and subsidize construction of homes and rental properties that would be affordable to lower-income Americans.



People in the crowd react as President Barack Obama arrives at Desert Vista High School in Phoenix, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013. Obama was in Arizona to discuss the economy and the middle class, and to outline his plan to overhaul U.S. mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

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Since his first year in office, Obama has been under pressure to propose legislation to remake or break up Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but the administration delayed those efforts while the housing market remained weak. By his advocacy now, aides say, Obama is putting his thumb on the scale for bipartisan efforts in the Senate Banking Committee over the legislation taking shape in the House that he does not support. "The current housing finance system, where the government guarantees more than 80 percent of

all mortgages through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and FHA, is unsustainable," said a senior administration official, who declined to be identified speaking in advance of the president's appearance. In choosing Phoenix, Obama returned to a city that has come to symbolize for him the depths of the housing bust and now its apparent recovery. Weeks after taking office in 2009, Obama went to Phoenix to offer initial housing proposals for addressing "a crisis unlike we've ever known," one "that strikes at the heart of the middle class." □

Lawyer says LA boardwalk crash a 'horrible accident'

MICHAEL BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A lawyer for a man charged with murder and assault for allegedly driving his car down a crowded Los Angeles boardwalk says it was an accident. Public defender Philip Dube says Nathan Louis Campbell is profoundly sad and didn't intentionally try to hit anyone. The 38-year-old Campbell was charged Tuesday with 34 counts involving the death of 32-year-old Alice

Gruppioni and injuries to 16 other people. Campbell appeared briefly in court, handcuffed and dressed in a blue prison jumpsuit. He pleaded not guilty. Dube told reporters outside the courtroom it was a horrible accident. Police have not disclosed why Campbell allegedly maneuvered his Dodge Avenger around a vehicle barrier early Saturday evening and plowed into tourists and vendors along the boardwalk. □

Pennsylvania: Man charged with killing 3: Town stole my home

MARYCLAIRE
M. RUBINKAM
Associated Press

SAYLORSBURG, Pennsylvania (AP) — A disabled junk dealer feuding with local officials over his debris-strewn property packed a rental car with guns and ammunition before opening fire at a town meeting and killing three men, authorities said Tuesday. Rockne Newell, 59, had lost his property this year in a court fight over complaints that he lived in a storage shed, built an illegal culvert and used a bucket outside as a toilet.

At his arraignment on homicide charges Tuesday morning, a judge asked Newell if he owned any real estate.

"They stole it from me. That's what started all this," he replied.

Newell allegedly used a Ruger Mini-14 rifle to blast a barrage of gunfire through a wall into the meeting room Monday night in Ross Township, about 85 miles (137 kilometers) north of Philadelphia, before entering the room and shooting a supervisor and four residents, two of whom survived.

Newell then retreated to the car and picked up a revolver, authorities said. When he returned to the meeting room, the 5-foot-10 inch (1.52-meter, 254 millimeter), 240-pound (109-kilogram) suspect was tackled by two men and shot in the leg during the scuffle, officials said.

"I wish I killed more of them!" Newell shouted when state Trooper Nicolas De La Iglesia arrived on the scene before 8 p.m., according to the trooper's affidavit.

Two men died at the scene and the third, Ross Town-

ship zoning officer David Fleetwood, died after being flown to a hospital. Fleetwood, 62, also served as a supervisor in a nearby township, the coroner said. Officials identified the slain residents as Gerard J. Kozic, 53, and James V. LaGuardia, 64.

At the hospital an hour later, Newell told police he had gone to the meeting in hopes of finding the township officials in one place.

"He intended to shoot the solicitor and supervisors and thought that he would then be killed," police said in the affidavit.

Newell was about to fire his .44 Magnum revolver when the township's parks and recreation director, Bernie Kozen, and resident Mark Kresh wrestled him to the ground, county coroner Bob Allen said at a news conference.

"Two very courageous individuals positioned themselves in a way that they were able to jump on this subject as he came through the door," State Police Lt. Col. George Bivens said. "This could have been much worse."

The two survivors were released from the hospital, along with Newell.

Terry Doll said he was well-known as a "kook," an intelligent man whose unpredictability stoked fear in some neighbors.

"When I found out about the shooting, we all looked at each other and said his name," said Doll, 58, who has lived in her house for more than 30 years. "We certainly always hoped that he would have never done something like this."

About 15 to 18 people had been at the meeting, including a Pocono Record reporter covering his first

Ross Township meeting. "The thing that got my attention: plaster flying out, blowing out through the walls. Witnesses would later

tell me they saw pictures exploding away from the walls," reported Chris Reber said in an account to his editors. □



The property of Rockne Newell is seen, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, in Saylorsburg, Pa. Newell has been arraigned on homicide charges and other counts after police say he fatally shot three people during a municipal meeting in the Poconos on Monday night, amid a dispute with the township.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

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GM to invest \$167M more at TN factory

ERIK SCHELZIG
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— General Motors plans to spend another \$167 million at its Tennessee factory so it can build two new midsize vehicles. The investment disclosed Tuesday is on top of a previously announced \$183 million investment. The spending is expected to create or keep 1,800 jobs, but GM wouldn't say how many new people would be hired. The company also wouldn't identify the new vehicles. They could be new versions of the Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain crossover SUVs. The assembly plant in Spring Hill, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of Nashville, now makes the Equinox along with a factory in Canada. Although they're selling well, they were last reworked in 2009. They compete against newer vehicles like the Honda CR-V, Ford Escape and Toyota RAV-4. The assembly plant was idled amid the economic downturn in 2009. But production was restarted following a 2011 contract agreement with the United Auto Workers that included salary concessions for entry-level workers. GM announced in 2011 announced that it would add 700 jobs to build the Equinox, and that it would add 1,200 jobs to build two more midsize vehicles for the 2015 model year. □

Polls open in Detroit's mayoral primary

STEVEN YACCINO

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Less than a month after Detroit filed for the nation's largest municipal bankruptcy, residents across the battered metropolis began voting Tuesday on final candidates for the city's highest office.

pointed as Detroit's emergency manager by Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican. The move stripped authority from local elected officials, raising questions about how much influence a new mayor would be able to wield right away. Mayor Dave Bing, criticized

more residents, discouraged about democratic participation in a city where elected leaders have little clout, will decide to stay home. That did not stop a crowd of candidates from jumping into the race. For months, campaign workers have canvassed the

mayor, said in an interview last week. "We aren't going to poof and disappear, and that leadership should be leadership that understands this community, who understands the challenges, who understands what it's like to have an abandoned house next door to them." Once the nation's fourth largest city, Detroit now has roughly 700,000 residents and an estimated \$18 billion in long-term debt obligations.

Napoleon, a former Detroit police chief who will likely advance to the general election, has highlighted his local roots, appealing to some Detroiters who are upset that outsiders are currently calling the shots. Supporters also point to his law enforcement background as much needed in a place where the average police response time for high-priority crimes was close to an hour this year. Other names on Tuesday's ballot include Tom Barrow, an accountant making his fourth run for mayor; Krystal Crittendon, a former city attorney; Lisa Howze, a former state representative; and Fred Durhal Jr., a current state representative. But local coverage has largely focused on a possible runoff between Napoleon and Mike Duggan, a former chief executive of the Detroit Medical Center who had to run as a write-in candidate because of a filing mistake. □



Josh Bell hands out fliers for Mike Duggan, a write-in candidate for mayor of Detroit, outside Bow Elementary School in Detroit, Aug. 6, 2013. (Fabrizio Costantini/The New York Times)

The primary election, which includes 16 mayoral contenders, will determine the two candidates who will advance to a general election in November. More than 50 others seeking nine City Council seats will also be considered. The race comes at a time of political tumult inside City Hall, which has for months been under the control of Kevyn D. Orr, a Washington bankruptcy lawyer ap-

ing "how the state defines the word 'partnership,'?" announced in May that he would not seek re-election; more than half of the current City Council members have decided not to run again. The city's Department of Elections estimates that voter turnout on Tuesday will be around the 17 percent that was seen during Detroit's last mayoral primary in 2009. But political observers believe many

city's blighted streets and candidates have become regular guests on radio and television news shows, each making the case that Detroit's time under state authority will be short lived. They say a strong mayor must be in place to lead the city back from the brink once local governance is returned. "We will emerge from this," Sheriff Benny Napoleon of Wayne County, who is running for

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US Financial Front: Smaller American trade gap, exports could lift Q2 growth

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — A sharp decline in the trade deficit with other nations suggests the U.S. economy grew this spring at a faster pace than previously estimated, helped by a record level of exports.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday that the U.S. trade gap fell more than 22 percent in June from May to \$34.2 billion. That's lowest level since October 2009.

American companies shipped more aircraft engines, telecommunications equipment, heavy machinery and farm goods. As a result, exports rose 2.2 percent to an all-time high of \$191.2 billion.

Imports declined 2.2 percent to \$225.4 billion, in part because oil imports fell to the lowest level in more than two years.

Economists said the steep drop in the trade deficit will likely lead the government to revise its economic growth estimate for the April-June quarter.

"We could see a sizeable upward revision," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist

at BMO Capital Markets.

Last week the government said the economy grew at a lackluster 1.7 percent annual rate in the second quarter, in part because trade cut nearly a full percentage point from growth.

But after seeing the June trade figures — which were not factored into last month's growth estimate — some economists said growth could be closer to a 2.5 percent annual rate. The government reports its second estimate of growth for the April-June quarter on Aug. 29.

A smaller trade deficit lifts economic growth because it means consumers and businesses are spending less on foreign goods than companies are taking in from overseas sales.

Many economists think overall growth has started to rebound in the July-September quarter. Some say growth could near a 3 percent annual rate. A key reason is that several export markets, including Europe, are seeing improvement.

For June, U.S. exports to the 27-nation European



The container ship Baghira, foreground, and the oil tanker Seabulk Arctic, rear, are anchored off shore as they wait to enter Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The Commerce Department said Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, that the U.S. trade gap fell more than 22% in June from May to \$34.2 billion. That's lowest level since October 2009.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

Union rose 1.5 percent. That helped shrink the deficit with the region to \$7.1 billion.

The deficit with China fell 4.3 percent to \$26.6 billion, while America's deficit with Japan rose 2.2 percent to \$5.5 billion in June.

Gregory Daco, senior economist at IHS Global Insight, said he still thinks trade will drag on the economy in the second half of the year. That's because he expects imports will increase at a faster pace than exports, reflecting the health of the

U.S. consumer and weaker growth overseas.

"We still have relatively modest global growth which will constrain U.S. exports," Daco said.

Still, Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors, said the rise in exports underscored the importance that manufacturing plays in the U.S. economy.

"A number of companies are doing whatever they can to bring back as much production as they can to the United States," Naroff

said. "They are facing rising wages in countries such as China and other problems of doing business there."

U.S. factories are already starting to show more strength after slumping earlier this year, helped by increases in business spending and less drag from government cuts.

Activity at U.S. factories increased in July at the fastest pace in two years in July, according to the Institute for Supply Management's closely watched manufacturing index. □

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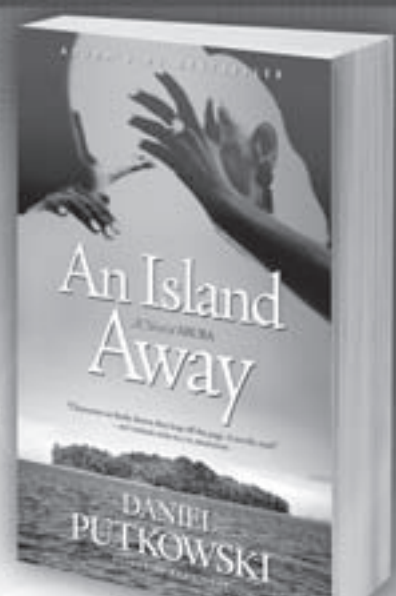
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Yemen thrust back into forefront of terror fight

AHMED AL-HAJ
MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Yemen was thrust back into the forefront of the international fight against terrorism Tuesday when the U.S. and Britain evacuated embassy staff due to a threatened attack, a suspected U.S. drone killed four alleged members of al-Qaida, and militants shot down a Yemeni army helicopter.

As Westerners flew out of the country, Yemeni authorities launched a wide investigation into the al-Qaida threat to multiple potential targets in the impoverished Arab nation. Security officials said they believed the terror network was seeking retaliation for a U.S.-backed military offensive that has dealt serious setbacks to the terror network's most active branch, including the death earlier this year of its No. 2 leader. The Yemeni army, meanwhile, surrounded foreign installations, government offices and the airport with tanks and troops in the nation's capital, Sanaa, as

well as the strategic Bab al-Mandeb straits at the entrance to the Red Sea in the southern Arabian Peninsula, drawing parallels with security measures following the 2000 bomb-

ing of the USS Cole in Aden harbor that killed 17 American sailors.

Authorities also set up checkpoints across Sanaa, searching cars and individuals, especially after

night fell. Top government officials, along with military and security commanders, were told to stay vigilant and limit their movements. Yemen's current president, Abdo Rabby Mansour Hadi,

said that between 50 and 100 diplomatic personnel were flown from Sanaa in a military transport to Ramstein Air Base in Germany. The official was not authorized to discuss the information publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said dozens of military troops remain in Yemen, including those providing security at the embassy and others training Yemeni troops.

Britain's Foreign Office also said it evacuated all staff from its embassy due to increased security concerns. The Foreign Office said the staff were "temporarily withdrawn to the U.K." And the Dutch Foreign Ministry has issued a call for about 40 of its citizens to leave Yemen, although it did not say whether that included its six embassy workers.

Yemen's government criticized the evacuations in a statement from its embassy in Washington, saying the diplomatic withdrawal "serves the interests of the extremists and undermines the exceptional cooperation" between Yemen and the international community in fighting terrorism. It insisted that its government has taken all precautions to ensure the security of foreign missions in Sanaa. Meanwhile, there has been a spike in apparent U.S. drone strikes against al-Qaida leaders. The attack Tuesday was the fourth in two weeks. Yemeni officials say the drone fired a missile at a car carrying four men in the al-Arqeen district of Marib province, setting it on fire and killing them. One of the dead was believed to be Saleh Jouti, a senior al-Qaida member.



Police in an armored vehicle secure a road leading to the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013. The State Department on Tuesday ordered non-essential personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Yemen to leave the country. The department said in a travel warning that it had ordered the departure of non-emergency U.S. government personnel from Yemen "due to the continued potential for terrorist attacks" and said U.S. citizens in Yemen should leave immediately because of an "extremely high" security threat level.

(AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

met with President Barack Obama at the White House last week, where both leaders cited strong counterterrorism cooperation. Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said the U.S. Air Force transported State Department personnel out of Sanaa early Tuesday. The department said in a travel warning that it had ordered the departure of non-emergency U.S. government personnel "due to the continued potential for terrorist attacks," adding that U.S. citizens should leave immediately because of an "extremely high" security threat level. A senior defense official

Continued on page 27

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Car bomb near Damascus kills 18; rebels take base

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A car bomb in a pro-regime district near the Syrian capital killed at least 18 people on Tuesday while rebels captured a major air base in the north and swept through a string of villages in the heartland of President Bashar Assad's minority Alawite sect in the west.

The push by the opposition fighters is shaping up to be one of their strongest campaigns against government forces, which have recently captured significant territory in central Syria.

The powerful car bomb struck in Damascus' suburb of Jaramana late on Tuesday, killing 18 and setting several buildings and many cars on fire, the state-run SANA news agency said. Syrian state TV footage showed firefighters bat-

ting the blaze as residents stared in disbelief amid debris and mangled cars.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Rebels fighting to oust Assad have frequently targeted areas where regime supporters and members of the government and security forces live. Rebel groups linked to al-Qaida have claimed some of the deadliest car bombings and suicide attacks in the capital and beyond.

In the north, rebels captured a major air base, depriving Assad's forces of a main post near the border with Turkey and opening up a key road for supplies for their fighters from the neighboring country.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said members of the al-Qaida-linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Le-



Syrian military helicopters at Mannagh air base in Aleppo province, Syria. Syrian rebels captured a major air base in the north of the country on Tuesday after months of fighting, depriving President Bashar Assad's forces of one of their main posts near the border with Turkey, activists said. State TV denied that the base had fully fallen. (AP Photo/Aleppo Media Center AMC)

vant led the battle for the Mannagh helicopter base. After months of trying to take it, the rebels launched an all-out offensive on

Monday, when a Saudi suicide attacker blew up his vehicle outside the command center, the Observatory said. They captured

the sprawling compound before dawn Tuesday, according to another activist group, the Aleppo Media Center. □

US Consulate in Milan receives bomb threat

FRANCES D'EMILIO

ROME (AP) — A building housing the U.S. Consulate in Milan and other offices was temporarily evacuated Tuesday evening after the diplomatic mission received a letter containing a bomb threat, police said. An officer in Italy's anti-terrorism squad said the letter carried a symbol frequently used in the past by Italian anarchists.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki confirmed the bomb threat and the temporary closure of the consulate. She also thanked Italian authorities for their "prompted and professional response."

The officer said police inspected the building af-

ter staff members were evacuated and that no members of the public appeared to be there at the time. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with police regulations.

Later, the building's tenants were allowed back inside after the alarm was called off. Several Italian radio stations have offices in the same building and also were temporarily evacuated.

As a precaution, a nearby subway stop was temporarily closed during rush hour as a precaution but later was reopened.

Police denied Italian news reports that suspicious luggage also had been found at the consulate. □

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Philippines adds 2nd Coast Guard cutter to fleet

HRVOJE HRANJSKI

Associated Press

SUBIC, Philippines (AP) —

The Philippines on Tuesday celebrated the arrival of a decommissioned U.S. Coast Guard cutter that will become its meager navy's second largest ship as it attempts to counter rival Chinese territorial claims in potentially oil-rich offshore seas.

President Benigno Aquino III saluted as the 3,250-ton white cutter, renamed Philippine navy frigate BRP Ramon Alcaraz, docked at a wharf in Subic Bay freeport northwest of Manila. A part of the former U.S. naval base will soon be turned into a Philippine military hub after the government approved a plan to shift its assets closer to the disputed islands in the South China Sea.

The ships are no match for the vastly superior Chinese navy, but both Philippine and U.S. officials have agreed to boost the country's military to make it more credible and shake its image of being one of the region's weakest. Washington is a defense treaty ally of the Philippines and is obligated to help fend off an external attack.

The Alcaraz is the Philippine navy's second largest vessel after another decommissioned Coast Guard cutter that was donated by Washington in 2011.

That ship, the 3,390-ton frigate BRP Gregorio del Pilar, has patrolled disputed waters and became entangled last year in a standoff with Chinese vessels at Scarborough Shoal, a sprawling fishing ground more than 260 kilometers (160 miles) west of Subic that came under Beijing's control after Philippine vessels withdrew.

Philippine navy chief Vice

Adm. Jose Luis Alano said the Alcaraz will also soon be deployed to patrol disputed waters. He said the Philippines is considering adding a third former U.S. Coast Guard cutter to its fleet. A military brass band played nationalist songs and a few hundred students waved small Philippine flags in Tuesday's ceremony. Loud 21-cannon fire thundered in the background.

lands controlled by Tokyo in the East China Sea. The developments point at an arms race by China's neighbors that have been alarmed by Beijing's assertiveness in claiming vast waters and backing those claims by deploying new maritime forces and refurbished vessels. Its claims in the South China Sea overlap with the 220-mile exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Vietnam and

and the Second Thomas Shoal farther south. Mis- chief Reef, a vast area occupied by China in 1995, now serves as a "central base" and "crucial outpost for replenishing China's naval and maritime assets in the disputed area," it said. China has also deployed its own coast guard cutters in disputed waters to complement maritime surveillance and fishery enforcement ships. The action "dem-



Students and other guests wave Philippine flags to welcome the second warship of the Philippine Navy, the BRP Ramon Alcaraz Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, at Subic Freeport, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of Manila, Philippines.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

"It will further intensify our patrolling of the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and our capability to quell any threat and bad elements, respond to search and rescue operations and take care of our marine resources," Aquino told a crowd that included U.S. Ambassador Harry Thomas. Also Tuesday, Japan unveiled its largest warship at a naval base in Yokohama. Japan has been locked in a separate and potentially volatile territorial dispute with China over small is-

other claimants. In the Philippine-claimed Spratly Islands, a confidential military report said 74 foreign vessels were spotted in a six-day surveillance period early last month, including 61 from China and 10 from Vietnam. The report, obtained by The Associated Press, said Beijing's surveillance patrols are now more organized in the disputed waters off the western Philippines, with the same Chinese vessels being rotated to guard both Scarborough Shoal

onstrates China's resolve to consolidate its self-claimed indisputable sovereignty in the South China Sea," the report said. The Philippines antagonized China when it filed an arbitration case with a U.N. tribunal handling maritime disputes. China has preferred to settle the disputes bilaterally, but the Philippines and Vietnam, which is also engulfed in a rift with China over the Paracel Islands, want to involve the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. □

Taiwan defense minister out after less than week

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's newly appointed defense minister resigned Tuesday over a plagiarism accusation after less than a week on the job, dealing another blow to the government of President Ma Ying-jeou and plunging the island's military deeper into crisis.

Andrew Yang, 58, told a late-night news conference that he accepted full responsibility for an article that a ghost writer prepared under his name in a 2007 book on China's People's Liberation Army that contained material lifted from another source.

"This is my mistake and I extend my apologies," Yang said. Ma accepted the resignation.

Yang took office Aug. 1 after his predecessor resigned amid a furor over the death of a 24-year-old army conscript forced to perform a series of grueling exercises in searing heat while being held in a military brig.

The death of Hung Chung-chiu early last month just days before his discharge infuriated many people. An estimated 200,000 protesters took to the streets of Taipei on Saturday demanding military reforms. Eighteen officers and non-commissioned officers, including a general, have been indicted in connection with the Hung case.

Yang was also tasked with implementing the military's ambitious program to transition to an all-volunteer force by 2015.

Yang was the first civilian appointed by Ma to the prestigious defense post. A widely respected academic, he had served as deputy defense minister since 2009. □



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Apartment building explosion kills 8 in Argentina

A. CALATRAVA
Associated Press
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina
(AP) — A natural gas explosion wrecked a tall apartment building in the Argen-

tine city of Rosario on Tuesday, killing at least eight people, injuring 63 and causing an evacuation of much of the downtown. Dozens of people were

trapped in the upper floors of the burning building as a huge plume of smoke went up over the country's third-largest city. The building's front and back facades

were ripped open, exposing the shattered remains of apartments inside. Firefighters working from above and below pulled people out of windows and off balconies as the bottom floors burned. The explosion damaged other buildings for blocks around, and fearing a collapse, police closed buildings and schools in a five-block radius. Rescuers were still looking for people in the rubble. Rosario Civil Defense Chief Raul Rainone said the explosion appeared to have been caused by a gas leak and confirmed that at least eight people were killed in the blast. The Litoral Gas company cut off gas flow to much of downtown.

Municipal Health Secretary Leonardo Caruana told Todo Noticias that the injured were being treated in hospitals across the city and that three of them had critical injuries. The fire took three hours to extinguish and left the building in serious danger of collapse, firefighters said. Buildings were damaged for several blocks surrounding the blast, which sent bricks and glass and cement crashing onto the street. Eleven schools were evacuated, and several shops and other apartment buildings were damaged. Security Secretary Sergio Berni offered the services of the border police and coast guard to help local authorities. □



Firemen stand in debris caused by a gas explosion that severely damaged a multi-story apartment building in Rosario, Argentina, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013. The explosion and ensuing fire killed at least eight people, and injured 63, and caused the evacuation of much of the downtown.
(AP Photo/Alfredo Gomez)

India says Pakistani soldiers killed 5 troops

AIJAZ HUSSAIN
Associated Press
SRINAGAR, India (AP) — India's army says five of its soldiers were killed and another wounded when Pakistani troops fired at a patrol near the cease-fire line in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir on Tuesday. The incident could threaten recent overtures aimed at resuming peace talks between the nuclear-armed rivals. The military called the attack a "gross violation" of a 2003 cease-fire in Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Lt. Col. Rajesh Kalra, an Indian army spokesman, said about 20 "heavily armed terrorists along with sol-

diers" of the Pakistan army ambushed an Indian army patrol in the Poonch sector, 180 kilometers (110 miles) southwest of Srinagar, the main city in the Himalayan region. Kalra said Pakistan had violated the cease-fire 57 times this year, nearly twice as often compared with last year. Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied that its soldiers killed any Indian troops. A statement from the ministry's spokesman said that Pakistan was committed to the cease-fire agreement of 2003, adding that "such ill-founded reports" that have the potential of harming relations should be avoided. The statement said Paki-

stan "looks forward to an early resumption of the dialogue process" with India. Pakistan's newly elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been indicating he is open to restarting peace talks. While the cease-fire has largely held for the last decade, such sporadic violations are not uncommon. Each accuses the other of initiating the fighting by firing mortars or gunshots across the line of control. The two countries have fought three major wars since they achieved independence from British India in 1947, two of them over Kashmir, which is claimed in its entirety by both but divided between them. □

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Cubans protest treatment of migrants in the Bahamas

BEN FOX
Associated Press

BAHAMAS/MIAMI (AP) — An ongoing protest by Cuban Americans in South Florida over the treatment

of migrants in the Bahamas has brought renewed attention to longstanding complaints about the conditions of confinement in the island nation for peo-

ple seeking to reach the United States, often with the help of human smugglers.

Activists in Florida allege that Cubans detained on

suspicion of illegal immigration have been beaten by guards, denied access to adequate food, water and medical care and deprived of the ability to file asylum claims while held in a detention center that the U.S. and U.N. have said do not meet international standards.

"The abuses in the Bahamas have reached the point of torture," said Ramon Saul Sanchez, an activist who was on his 12th day of a hunger strike Tuesday in support of the migrants. There have long been complaints about the treatment of migrants, who mostly come from Cuba and Haiti, by authorities in the Bahamas and both the U.S. and U.N. have both criticized conditions in the detention center over the years. Sanchez said that, after some gains, the situation had deteriorated and "they went back to the old

way of mistreating of the detainees."

The protest, which has taken place at the Bahamian consulate in Miami and near the piers where cruise ships embark to the Bahamas, has drawn support from members of the U.S. Congress and a sharp response from Bahamian officials, who deny any abuse and are angered over calls for a tourism boycott.

"Bahamians are quite fed up with this attack on our country, which in our view is unfair," Foreign Minister Fred Mitchell said. "We spend \$1 billion in the Florida economy every year. What's the point in trying to damage our economy?"

The Bahamas is a sparsely populated island chain of 350,000 people spread over more than two dozen islands, and is frequently used as a transit zone by people trying to reach the nearby United States. The Royal Bahamas Defense Force regularly detains boatloads of migrants and departs most back to their homelands.

Carmichael Road was converted from a school into a detention center in the mid-1990s to accommodate the increasing number of migrants. Two of the four dormitories burned in a fire started by detainees in 2004 and some people held there must sleep on the floor or outside when capacity is reached, according to a 2012 U.S. State Department report. It said as many as 375 people had been held there. A Cuban woman recently held there with her two children, ages 3 and 12, told The Associated Press that the center is filthy, detainees are not given adequate food or potable water and are forced to sleep on the floor. □



Ramon Saul Sanchez, left, president of the Democracy Movement, and Jesus Alexis Gomez lie in a bed during their hunger strike to protest the alleged abuse of about 40 Cubans who are detained in the Bahamas in Miami, Wednesday, July 31, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

UN should be accountable for Haiti cholera: study

TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— A Yale University report released Tuesday argues that the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti should be held accountable for introducing cholera into the Caribbean nation.

In their report "Peacekeeping without Accountability," researchers from Yale Law School and the Yale School of Public Health say there is ample scientific evidence to show that U.N. troops from Nepal inadvertently brought cholera to Haiti in October 2010 and that the world body should take responsibility.

The U.N. has said it enjoys legal immunity from such claims, and shot down an

earlier effort by a Boston-based human rights group that sought compensation on behalf of a group of cholera victims who blame peacekeepers for the outbreak. The Yale report's authors also say the world body violates obligations under international law by not providing a forum to address the grievances of cholera victims. By failing to hold itself accountable for causing the cholera outbreak in Haiti, the United Nations violates the very principles of accountability and respect for law that it promotes worldwide, the report said.

Several scientific papers have suggested that cholera was introduced to Haiti in October 2010 shortly after a battalion from Ne-

pal arrived. The disease is endemic in Nepal. A local contractor failed to properly sanitize the waste of a U.N. base, and the bacteria leaked into a tributary of one of Haiti's biggest rivers, according to one study.

Health officials say Haiti's cholera outbreak has since killed more than 7,500 people and sickened another 578,409. The Yale study also notes that the U.N. has promised a standing claims commission under agreements signed with the Haitian government, but has never honored this obligation in Haiti "or anywhere else in the world, despite having entered into 32 such agreements since 1990."

"As a result," the report

said, "a meaningful mechanism to ensure peacekeeper accountability has been rendered a nullity."

The report calls for a claims commission, a public apology, support for victims and adequate funding for the prevention and treatment of cholera.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced in December a \$2.27 billion initiative to help eradicate cholera in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which share the island of Hispaniola, but the ambitious 10-year plan remains mostly unfunded.

The U.N. mission in Haiti, known by the French acronym Minustah, arrived in 2004 following the violent ouster of then President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. □



Aruba International Regatta 2013:

Boat building initiative to enhance this year's event!



PALM BEACH - Two boat builders, Yair Lichtenstein and Rik van der Vaart, will be demonstrating boat building during the upcoming International Sailing Regatta, which is held at Surfside Beach on August 10 and 11. The result of their joint effort, which can be either rowed or motored with a small outboard, will hopefully be sold during the prize-giving ceremony of the event and net proceeds will go to the sailing school for kids (SYWA). With their unique action, the two boat builders hope to show that a lovely wooden vessel can be built in relatively little time and with not much

expertise. The design of the boat is a John Welsford Seagull; the boat can easily hold three people and glides through the water with ease.

The wood needed to build the Seagull is entirely sponsored by Kooyman, in support of the International Sailing Regatta. The boat will be sold unpainted, so that the new owner can decide on its color and finishing touches in close cooperation with Rik and Yair. The International Sailing Regatta will be held at Surfside Beach – everyone is more than welcome to come and cheer the participants in the various classes on. □



Yair Lichtenstein and Rik van der Vaart will construct a John Welsford Seagull sailing vessel (featured above) during the Aruba International Regatta 2013.

(Handout Photo)



Thursday, August 8, at 7:30pm: Identity Pill exhibition opening at Ateliers' 89

ORANJESTAD - Ateliers' 89 is proud to announce the opening of their latest exhibit, Identity Pill, by artist Nelson Gonzalez, on Thursday, August 8, at 7:30pm.

Identity Pill is the latest proposal by the artist Nelson Gonzalez. The pre-production and investigation part of this project started years ago. What Nelson Gonzalez is trying to document with his works are forms of cultural transmissions, the immigrant life and integration into the system and culture.

Nelson was born in Venezuela and after visiting several European and Latin American countries he settled in Aruba. In the development of Nelson's artwork many 'frontiers' were explored, "Identity Pill" is one of these.

Identity Pill explores the journey of "Inburgering" which means nothing more than one thing turning into another. It is the same name given



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to the process of naturalization in the Dutch system. The artist uses metaphors and cliché symbols to express his ideas, views and messages. The artist creates, using different techniques and media such as Video art,

Cultural Carlos Parra Bernal" where he developed a passion for visual arts. He continued at the institute "Escuela de arte Plasticas Julio Arraga" where he obtained his Bachelor, specialization painting and design. He also spe-



collage, digital print, paintings, sculptures and textile. Nelson Gonzalez, born in Maracaibo in 1979, grew up in an artistic family. As a little boy he used to play in his mother's studio a lot and it is here where his education actually began.

At the age of 7 he was enrolled at the "Centro

cialized in Photography at the same institute and Pedagogy, Expression and Creativity under the professional guidance of Dr. Victor Fuenmayor. Visit www.nelsongonzalezweb.tuars.com.

For more information on the exhibition at Ateliers' 89, contact Elvis López at 565-4613. □

At the Divi Tamarijn Resort:

Aruba Tourism Authority honors Bob and Lisa De Hart



DRUIF BEACH - Recently Bob and Lisa De Hart of Middelburg Heights, Ohio were honored as Distin-

guished Visitors of Aruba for visiting the island for 10 years consecutively at the Divi Tamarijn Resort.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to



guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutive. The honored guests are regular visitors at the Divi Tamarijn Resort and have been enjoying the Island every year. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Bradley Ver-

sprey and Elvira Geerman representing the Divi Tamarijn Resort conducted the ceremony.

Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees are they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and Friendly Aruban Hospitality. □

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Woods poised to end his longest major drought

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PITTSFORD, New York (AP)

— Tiger Woods is leaving nothing to chance in his last chance this year to win a major.

Fresh off a seven-shot victory at a World Golf Championship — his fifth win of the season — Woods showed up at Oak Hill late Monday afternoon and spent most of his time chipping and putting, trying to learn the nuances of the greens. Remember, his failure to adjust to the greens is what derailed him at the British Open two weeks ago.

He also spent time with Steve Stricker talking about putting, which must have been a daunting sight for the other players. The last time Stricker gave him some putting tips was in early March, and Woods went on to win three of his next four tournaments.

The stakes are higher than usual for him at the PGA Championship.



Tiger Woods walks to the 16th tee during a practice round for the PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, in Pittsford, N.Y.

This isn't the first time Woods has gone into final major trying to make sure his season doesn't end without one. One difference from previous years is that Woods now is piling up wins just about everywhere except the majors.

The Bridgestone Invitational was his fifth win of the year. Only twice in the last 30 years has a player had at least that many PGA Tour wins in a season without a major — Woods in 2009 and Woods in 2003.

For someone who has been stuck on 14 majors the last five years, Woods didn't sound like he was in panic mode. "I think winning one major championship automatically means you had a great year," he said Tuesday after playing nine holes and spending even more time in the practice area, fine-tuning a game that already is in great shape.

Associated Press

Continued on page 21



Venus Williams towels off after her loss to Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium following their Rogers Cup women's tennis match in Toronto on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013.

Associated Press

Kirilenko, Ivanovic open with wins at Rogers Cup

TORONTO (AP) — Venus Williams lost in her first match in more than two months, falling 0-6, 6-4, 6-2 Tuesday to Kirsten Flipkens at the Rogers Cup.

Williams lost in the first round of the French Open on May 26. The 33-year-old also missed Wimbledon, after 16 consecutive appearances, because of a lower back injury.

"I wasn't really expecting to play that well in the first set," Williams said. "So I think that in the second, I just kind of didn't handle it well.

But I was pretty close there to closing that match out

and then got down in the third."

Maria Kirilenko and Ana Ivanovic won in straight sets to advance to the second round. Kirilenko cruised past qualifier Petra Martic 6-2, 6-1, and Ivanovic defeated Su-Wei Hsieh 6-1, 6-2.

In other matches, American qualifier Lauren Davis edged Svetlana Kuznetsova 3-6, 7-5, 7-5, and Dominika Cibulkova stopped Angelique Kerber 6-7 (0), 6-2, 7-5 in the Rexall Centre at York University.

Cibulkova needed nearly 3 hours to win the match.

"My serve was not working

like I was expecting," she said. "But in the end I made it, so I was really happy."

Jelena Jankovic needed three sets to defeat qualifier Anna Tatishvili 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-3.

Ekaterina Makarova beat Anastasia Rodionova 6-1, 7-5, and Alize Cornet topped Elena Vesnina 6-3, 6-3.

American Sloane Stephens made her debut at the Rogers Cup with a 6-2, 7-6 (5) victory over Frenchwoman Kristina Mladenovic in the opening round.

The 17th-ranked Stephens will face Germany's Mona Barthel on Wednesday. □

NL Capsules

Dodgers win 15th in a row on road, 3-2 over Cards

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Zack Greinke pitched into the seventh inning and raised his batting average to .405 with an RBI single, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers win their 15th straight on the road with a 3-2 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Monday night.

Nick Punto was productive subbing for injured shortstop Hanley Ramirez and the Dodgers got an RBI apiece from Andre Ethier and A.J. Ellis while matching the Cincinnati Reds' 15-game run in 1957. They're two wins shy of the NL record set by the 1916 New York Giants.

Greinke (9-3) allowed two runs in 6 1-3 innings for his 100th career victory, allowing two hits in the third, fourth and fifth but no runs. Paco Rodriguez earned his second career save with a perfect ninth.

Adam Wainwright (13-7) gave up three runs in seven innings and failed in his third straight attempt at winning his 14th.

BRAVES 3, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justin Upton led off the eighth inning with a tiebreaking homer, and the NL East-leading Braves extended their winning streak to a season-high 11 games by beating the fading Nationals. Freddie Freeman drove in Atlanta's first two runs with a pair of singles in the third and fifth. Reliever David Carpenter (3-0) earned the win by retiring all five batters he faced.

Upton's 20th homer came on a 3-2 pitch from Tyler Clippard (6-2), who replaced Stephen Strasburg to begin the eighth.

The Nationals again failed to provide much run support for Strasburg, who struck out nine in seven innings, allowing two runs and five hits. The last five times he's allowed two earned runs or fewer, Washington lost.

GIANTS 4, BREWERS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Pinch hitter Jeff Francoeur's broken-bat single in the bottom of the eighth inning drove in the go-ahead run in the Giants' victory over the Brewers.

Brandon Belt had three hits for the Giants, who won for the fourth time in six games. Hunter Pence walked three times and stole two bases. Santiago Casilla (5-2) pitched the eighth for the win, while John Axford (4-5) took the loss. Sergio Romo pitched the ninth for his 27th save in 31 chances.

Juan Francisco hit a home run and drove in two for the Brewers, who have lost four of five. Jean

Segura and Jonathan Lucroy each had two hits.

Giants starter Chad Gaudin gave up a run on four hits over 6 1-3 innings. He walked four and struck out eight.

Brewers starter Tyler Thornburg went six innings, allowing an unearned run on seven hits.

In other NL games it was San Francisco 4, Milwaukee 2; Atlanta 3, Washington 2; and LA Dodger 3, St. Louis 2. □



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Zack Greinke watches a delivery to a New York Yankees batter during first inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, July 30, 2013.

Associated Press

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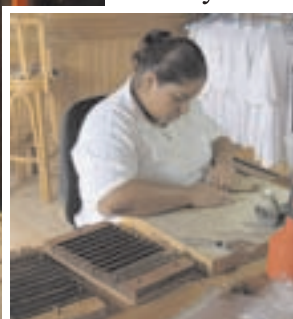
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AL Capsules

A-Rod singles, Yankees lose 8-1 to White Sox

The Associated Press
CHICAGO (AP) — CHICAGO (AP) — Alex Rodriguez blooped a single into left field in his first at-bat of the season, hours after being hit with a long suspension. It was a nice start for the embattled slugger, but that was it. The finish belonged to the Chicago White Sox. Rodriguez went 1 for 4 in his first game for New York, but the White Sox beat the struggling Yankees 8-1 on Monday night to snap a 10-game losing streak. Rodriguez was suspended through 2014 by Major League Baseball in the Biogenesis case, a punishment he is appealing. That clearly was the biggest story on a day when New York's Derek Jeter went back on the disabled list because of a strained right calf and Andy Pettitte (7-9) got knocked out early. Alex Rios drove in four runs, Alexei Ramirez added four hits and Jose Quintana (6-3) pitched into the seventh for the White Sox. **TIGERS 4, INDIANS 2**
CLEVELAND (AP) — Alex Avila's three-run homer in the ninth inning off closer Chris Perez rallied Detroit to its ninth straight win. The Tigers were three outs



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez watches his single during the second inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox in Chicago, Monday, Aug. 5, 2013.

Associated Press

away from having their lead in the AL Central cut to two games before their comeback against Perez (4-2), who had converted

11 consecutive save opportunities.

After Victor Martinez's RBI single made it 2-1, Perez walked Andy Dirks before

Avila drove a 1-0 pitch over the wall in left-center for his ninth homer, stunning a Cleveland crowd ready to celebrate the team's big-

gest win this season. Manager Terry Francona had no choice but to relieve the controversial Perez, who sullenly walked to the dugout after not retiring a batter and heard only boos from Indians fans. Al Albuquerque (2-2) got one in the eighth and Joaquin Benoit worked the ninth for his 13th save. Detroit starter Anibal Sanchez struck out 11 in 7 2-3 innings, and was in line to take a tough loss before the Tigers stormed back for their 13th win in 14 games. It was a demoralizing setback for the Indians, who fell to 3-10 against the Tigers this season and had their home winning streak stopped at 11. **ROYALS 13, TWINS 0**
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Jeremy Guthrie pitched a four-hitter and Eric Hosmer drove in a career-high five runs to help Kansas City rout Minnesota. The Royals, who have won 12 of their past 13 games, scored a season-high 13 runs. Guthrie (12-7) won his fourth straight start to log his 12th victory, which is a career high. It was his second career shutout and he lowered his ERA to 3.94. □



In this March 31, 1994 file photo, Detroit Red Wings NHL hockey player Shawn Burr bites on his mouthpiece as he watches from the bench during a game against the Quebec Nordiques in Detroit.

Associated Press

Former Red Wing Shawn Burr dies at 47

DETROIT (AP) — Shawn Burr, who played 16 years in the NHL, mostly with the Detroit Red Wings, died Monday. He was 47.

Dave Goetze, a friend of Burr's, says Burr was making progress in a fight against leukemia, but he died from

brain trauma after a fall at his Detroit-area home. Goetze has worked for the Shawn Burr Foundation in support of blood cancer research.

Burr was a first-round draft pick by the Red Wings in 1984. He made his NHL de-

but in 1984-85 and was with the Red Wings until 1995. He also played for the Tampa Bay Lightning and San Jose Sharks.

In 878 NHL games, Burr scored 181 goals with 259 assists and 1,069 penalty minutes. □

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Woods

Continued from page 18

"Even if you miss the cut in every tournament you play, you win one (major), you're part of history."

"This year, I think it's been a great year so far for me, winning five times," he said. "And you look at the quality of tournaments I've won — The Players and two World Golf Championships in there — that's pretty good."

It used to be major or bust for Woods, but when asked if he had adjusted his standards during this five-year drought, Woods offered a simple, "No."

Still a great year without a major?

"Yeah," Woods said, offering nothing more than a smile.

Even so, he conceded that the 15th major has been tougher to get than he would have imagined. So much has transpired since that U.S. Open playoff victory at Torrey Pines in 2008 — reconstructive surgery on his left knee that wiped out the rest of the 2008 season; revelations of multiple extramarital affairs at the end of 2009 that led to divorce and cost him millions in corporate endorsements; more injuries that forced him to skip two majors in 2011.

The very thing that irritates him about his recent record in the majors is what gives him hope — he keeps giving himself opportunities.

"I've had my opportunities there on the back nine on probably half of those Sundays for the last five years, where I've had a chance and just haven't won it," Woods said. "But the key is to keep giving myself chances, and eventually I'll start getting them."

The traditional, tree-lined East Course at Oak Hill can



Tiger Woods pauses on the 12th fairway during a practice round for the PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, in Pittsford, N.Y.

Associated Press

present the appearance of Firestone, where Woods won for the eighth time last week. The difference is the greens on the Donald Ross design, which tend to slope severely to the front. The rough is thicker than usual, not nearly as severe as Merion, but enough to get players' attention to hit whatever club his necessary off the tee to keep it in the short grass.

Woods tied for 39th and never broke par when the PGA Championship was last held at Oak Hill in 2003, though that's a pretty small sample to argue if this course suits him. Remember, he was finishing his first full year without a swing coach. And while he won five times that year, Woods won only one tournament over the last six months.

He is back to No. 1 in the world by a mile. He is the favorite at every major, even though he's gone 17 majors without winning. He is the center of attention, and that only ramps up when he arrives fresh off a seven-shot win.

"I think Tiger is a factor no matter what — even coming in not with that kind of form," Masters champion Adam Scott said. "He's been up there in majors recently and just has not finished it off. But, obviously,

he put it all together last week at a venue he's extremely comfortable with, so I don't know that Tiger's confidence is ever really down. It's hard to imagine when you've won 80 times or something. He's obviously going to be feeling good about where his game is at. "But this week is a new challenge, as it is for everyone," Scott said. "And we all start from the same point on Thursday."

It's not getting any easier at the majors. For the first time in 25 years, the major champions were three players who were among the top 10 in the world — Scott at the Masters, Justin Rose at the U.S. Open and Phil Mickelson at the British Open.

"I think that having Tiger win last week is great because I can't remember the last time somebody won the week before a major and then went on and won," Mickelson said, waiting for the room to catch up to his wisecrack. That would be Mickelson, who won the Scottish Open the week before his British Open win. Woods had been the last player to do that — an eight-shot win at the Bridgestone Invitational in 2007, followed by the PGA Championship at Southern Hills. □

Heat-Bulls, Lakers-Clippers on NBA's opening night

BRIAN MAHONEY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Miami Heat will open their title defense against the Chicago Bulls on Oct. 29 in the expected return of Derrick Rose, with an all-Los Angeles matchup later that night in the Lakers' first game without Dwight Howard and the Clippers' first with Doc Rivers.

The NBA's 2013-14 schedule, released Tuesday, also features a potential LeBron James-Kobe Bryant duel on Christmas in Los Angeles, right after scoring stars Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Durant match up across the country in New York.

Howard's first visit to the Lakers since leaving for Houston as a free agent doesn't come until Feb. 19, giving Bryant plenty of time to get back to full strength from his torn Achilles' tendon near the end of last season.

The Indiana Pacers host the Orlando Magic in the opening game of the season, about the time the Heat are holding another championship ring ceremony. Then Miami will try to give Rose a rough welcome back in what's likely to be his first NBA game since tearing his knee in the opening game of the 2012 playoffs.

Most teams open on Oct. 30. Two nights later, the Heat will serve as the opponent for the new-look Brooklyn Nets' first home game since acquiring Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce from Boston.

That duo, which helped lead the Celtics to the 2008



In this May 1, 2011, file photo, Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose (1) is fouled by Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) during the second quarter of Game 2 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals in Chicago.

Associated Press

NBA championship, will make its emotional return to Boston on Jan. 26. Rivers will coach his first game back there on Dec. 11 — one night after the Celtics see Garnett and Pierce for the first time in Brooklyn. Rivers will then renew acquaintances with his two star players on Dec. 12 at Barclays Center.

Other highlights of the schedule, which was released during an NBA TV special program:

—The Heat will host the Spurs on Jan. 26 in their first meeting since they edged San Antonio in Game 7 of the NBA Finals. The teams also meet in Texas on March 6.

—The marquee Christmas Day schedule features five games: Chicago at Brooklyn, Oklahoma City at New York, Miami at the Lakers, Houston at San Antonio, and the Clippers at Golden State. □

Throat's Door

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

The word thyroid comes from the Greek "thura" which means "door," which is what the thyroid looks like. Your thyroid gland is the largest endocrine gland and is situated in the front of the neck. Your thyroid gland secretes iodine-rich hormones thyroxine and triiodothyronine which regulate your metabolism rate; but its effects are felt all over the body.

Thyroid glands that are not functioning optimally produce a myriad of symptoms. Many people experience unexplained cold hands and feet, low body temperature, sensitivity to cold, a feeling of always being chilled, headaches, insomnia, dry skin and hair, puffy eyes, hair loss, brittle nails, joint aches, constipation, mental dullness, fatigue, frequent infections, PMS symptoms, hoarse voice, ringing in the ears, dizziness, depression, fluid retention, anxiety and panic attacks, allergies, asthma, acne, skin hives, loss of libido, and weight gain, which is sometimes uncontrollable. In fact, an insufficiently nourished thyroid might be a major cause of weight problems, especially among women, in the West today.

Research indicates that up to 10 percent of Westerners have a thyroid problem that has most likely gone unrecognized. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms above your doctor could send you to check your thyroid func-

tion through a blood test. Unfortunately, the test results may not be accurate. This is because test "averages" do not show how all of us are unique. Your individual thyroid hormone levels are not like anyone else's.

Thyroid tests will not give you an accurate indication of your ideal thyroid hormone level, because they are missing a critical piece of information which is your peak thyroid level when you were young and healthy. Should your thyroid test results indicate that you are in the "normal" range...say 5.5...but when you were younger you would have tested at a 9, then indeed, your thyroid is quite under active for you. At 5.5 you may feel very tired yet your doctor will tell you that your test results are "normal."

You can only truly compare you with you, and not a range of others. It would be ideal if we were tested when we were in our late teens and twenties and our peak levels were recorded at the top-most physical time in our life. Then, as we age, we could test ourselves again to ensure that our hormone levels remain at this peak level.

The second reason that the tests are often inaccurate is because they only show what your thyroid hormone levels are

on the day of testing. Your thyroid is a "tricky" organ to both diagnose and treat since its hormone levels fluctuate all the time. What you eat each day has a tremendous and immediate impact on it, and how much hormone it secretes.

A third reason for their inaccuracy is that the tests do not indicate if your thyroid hormone is actually entering your cells. Your thyroid may be manufacturing plenty of hormone but your cells



can become resistant to the hormone and not able to utilize it. This condition is called Wilson's Syndrome. If you have low body temperature and some of the symptoms listed above you could have this condition.

In our clinic we see a lot of hypo or low functioning thyroids. The first solution is to put our patients on their metabolic or blood type food list. Because of today's diet, people will likely never experience outstanding thyroid health, unless they are encouraged to change their eating habits.

Your thyroid can

be nourished better with a diet that includes the good fats (olive oil, pumpkinseed oil, real, unsalted butter, cod liver oil, and egg yolks) and mineral-rich foods (dark green leafy vegetables, sea salt and ocean veggies). Supplements that help in building a strong thyroid are kelp and selenium.

Most thyroid patients are women and many with low progesterone are often misdiagnosed as thyroid deficiency. Thyroid and sex hormones each affect the other.

We often attend women with bulging eyes, racing heartbeat, and a swollen neck by naturally stimulating their progesterone production. Adding zinc to your daily supplement routine is important for sexual health.

Irregular periods, often leading to needless hysterectomies, are unfortunate common aspects of hypothyroidism; and breast disease.

Too little thyroid production may cause increased prolactin levels and persistent estrogen stimulation.

Prolactin is the hormone that stimulates the production of breast milk. Levels rise normally during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Abnormal changes in prolactin production can slow or stop your menstruation and you may find that you are producing milk from your breasts when you are not pregnant.

Get The Point! Your

thyroid may not be working at its optimum if you are experiencing some of the symptoms mentioned above.

If the guardian in your throat isn't handling the job anymore, maybe it's time for a change of guard. Take control of your health by opening the door to diet and lifestyle changes. Don't settle for "averages." We are all different; we offer specialized hormone and other testing. Let us prepare a personal plan to fortify your health.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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Netflix rolls out new tool to profile viewers

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Netflix is introducing a long-awaited feature that will make it easier for the Internet video service to track and analyze the viewing habits of people sharing the same \$8-per-month account.

The tool coming out Thursday can splinter a single Netflix account into up to five different profiles at no additional charge.

The Los Gatos, California, company is hoping its 37.6 million worldwide subscribers will use the profiles feature because it will help Netflix's recommendation system gain a better understanding of the different tastes of viewers using the same account.

The feature initially will only be available on Netflix's own website and several other viewing outlets, including the iPad, iPhone, Apple TV, PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, Apple TV and some smart TV models. It may take up to two weeks before the profiles choice pops up in these options. Profiles should be available on the Wii console before the end of August and on Android devices before the end of the year.

Netflix subscribers who use Netflix on Roku's set-top box probably won't be able to use profiles on that device until early next year.



In this photo taken Wednesday, July 10, 2013, Chris Jaffe, Netflix VP of Product Innovation, left, and Bob Heldt, Director of Engineering, look over video displays as they await the debut of "Orange is the new black" in Los Gatos, Calif.

Associated Press

Until now, deciphering the preferences in large households could be tricky because Netflix's system couldn't distinguish between when a 50-year-old dad was watching its Internet video service and when his 10-year-old girl might be viewing under the same account.

"If the kids have been watching a lot of 'Shaun the Sheep,' that doesn't particularly help us help you find the next gritty drama to watch after they

have gone to bed," said Neil Hunt, Netflix's chief product officer.

Profiles will now make it possible for several members of the same household to click on their screen name to get customized recommendations, based on what they have previously watched and seemed to enjoy in Netflix's library of movies, old TV shows and original programs.

Netflix relies on viewers' own ratings of video, as well as computer-driven

analyses of the genres previously watched.

Netflix Inc. considers its recommendation system to be one of its biggest advantages over rival Internet video services run by Amazon.com Inc., Hulu.com and Redbox. As long as Netflix keeps steering its subscribers to videos that they like, the company figures customers will be less likely to cancel the service. Even though it's often analyzed a jumbled mix of viewers, Netflix's recom-

mendation system apparently is hitting a sweet spot more often than not. The company says about three-fourths of the video watching on its service is driven by its recommendations.

The new profiles can also be used to link to each user's Facebook account. That connection allows Netflix members see what the other people in their online social network have been watching on Netflix, too. □

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Stocks slide on Wall Street; retailers slump

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Warnings of weaker profits helped pull the stock market down on Tuesday, despite some positive economic news. American Eagle plunged 12 percent after the retailer slashed its earnings forecast in half late Monday, blaming weak sales. The company said cutting prices on clothing to lure in shoppers was hitting its profit margins. American Eagle dropped \$2.40 to \$17.57. Two of American Eagle's rivals also slumped. Abercrombie & Fitch lost \$2.09, or 4 percent, to \$49.57. Urban Outfitters lost \$1.20, or 3 percent, to \$42.47. Most companies have reported better results during the second-quarter earnings season, but sales have slowed. A growing list of companies, including eBay and Marriott, has told analysts to lower their expectations for the coming quarters. The overall picture has left investors with little reason to cheer. "Earnings have been moving up, just not spectacularly," said Cam Albright, director of asset allocation at Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors. "We'd be much happier to see better revenue growth than what we've seen." Analysts expect companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index to post earnings growth of 4.4 per-

cent in the second quarter. But revenue is on track to shrink 0.6 percent. Major indexes headed lower from the opening bell Tuesday, bottomed out around 11 a.m. then slowly recovered some of their losses. The Dow Jones industrial average was down as much as 138 points.

dropped 27.18 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,665.77. IBM fell the most in the Dow following reports that the company would require some workers to take time off this month as hardware sales slow. Credit Suisse also cut its rating on the company. IBM dropped \$4.51, or 2 percent, to \$190.99.

1,700 points for the first time last week and rose five of the past six weeks. The S&P, a benchmark for most equity mutual funds, is up 19 percent this year, already ahead of its 13 percent gain in 2012. Speculation that the Federal Reserve could start easing off its support for the economy



Richard Newman, second left, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock futures bounced from earlier lows Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, after the U.S. reported record exports in June and new data was released showing that home prices are rising sharply. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By the end of the day the Dow was down 93.39 points, or 0.6 percent, to close at 15,518.74. The S&P 500 index lost 9.77 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,697.37. All 10 sectors in the S&P 500 fell. The Nasdaq composite

In economic news, the government reported record U.S. exports in June and new data was released showing that home prices are rising sharply. The stock market remains near record highs. The S&P 500 index closed above

helped knock commodity prices down Tuesday. Charles Evans, who votes on the Fed's policy as president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, said the Fed could start scaling back its bond buying later this year. □

Online retailing helps Deutsche Post DHL profit

DAVID McHUGH
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

—Mail, express delivery and freight company Deutsche Post DHL said stronger revenue from online shopping deliveries and smaller one-time expenses helped its profits more than double in the second quarter.

Net profit rose to 422 million euros (\$561 million) from 196 million euros in the same quarter a year ago. Revenue slipped 0.6 percent to 13.6 billion euros, although the company said revenues would have risen by some 250 million euros without effects such as shifts in currency values. The company said Tuesday the absence of one-time charges for a value-added tax settlement from a year ago contributed to the profit increase. It also credited the "dynamic performance" of its parcel business in Germany as online retailing continues to grow. Parcel revenues were up 9 percent to 867 million euros, helping boost the mail division's sales by 4 percent. The company, which is based in Bonn, Germany, delivers the mail as Deutsche Post and operates international express delivery, freight and supply chain businesses under the DHL brand. It has 475,000 employees in 220 countries and territories. It increased its outlook for the year in light of gains from one-time effects. It raised its profit goal to 2.75 billion-3.0 billion euros in operating profit excluding interest and taxes, up from 2.7 billion-2.95 billion euros. The company's earnings beat stock market analysts' forecasts for 377 million euros net profit as compiled by financial information provider FactSet. Its shares rose 2.4 percent to 21.83 euros in early afternoon trading in Europe. Deutsche Post DHL said that its global freight business saw a 6.3 percent drop in what it called a "challenging market environment" that meant lower volumes in both air and ocean freight, and on traditional east-west routes. Demand for north-south transport and within continents rose. □

US home prices jump nearly 12 percent in June

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

U.S. home prices surged 11.9 percent in June from a year earlier, reflecting stronger demand amid a tight supply of homes for sale. CoreLogic, a real estate data provider, said Tuesday that home prices climbed on annual basis in 48 states. They fell only in Mississippi and Delaware. And all but one of the 100 largest cities reported price gains. Nevada led all states with an annual gain of 26.5 percent. That was followed by California (21.4 percent),

Wyoming (16.7 percent), Arizona (16.2 percent) and Georgia (14.3 percent). On a monthly basis, U.S. home prices rose 1.9 percent in June from May, the 16th straight month-over-month increase. All told, U.S. home values increased 10 percent through the first six months of the year, the firm said. "Trend in home price gains is moving at the fastest pace since 1977," said Mark Fleming, CoreLogic's chief economist. Steady price increases are the latest sign of a recovery in housing. Stable job gains and still-low mortgage

rates have encouraged more Americans to buy homes. Greater demand, along with few homes for sale, has helped push up prices. One concern is that higher mortgage rates could slow home sales. But many economists say rates remain low by historical standards and would need to rise much faster to halt the momentum. Previously occupied homes sold in June at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.08 million, according the National Association of Realtors reported last month. That's close to a 3 ½ -year

high reached in May and 15.2 percent above year-ago levels. Despite the gains since last year, home prices are still about 19 percent below the peaks they reached in April 2006, CoreLogic said. That's a key reason the supply of homes for sale remains low. Many homeowners are waiting to recoup their losses before putting their houses on the market. Another factor in the recent price gains is that foreclosed homes, which often sell at a discount to other homes, are making up a smaller proportion of overall sales. □

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MGM Resorts 2Q loss shrinks, revenue rises

LAS VEGAS (AP) — MGM Resorts International's second-quarter loss narrowed as revenue improved thanks to increased consumer spending.

Its adjusted results and revenue topped analysts' estimates. The stock rose almost 6 percent in premarket trading.

The casino operator behind brands including Bellagio, The Mirage and MGM Grand said Tuesday that the Las Vegas Strip's performance continues to improve.

The gambling mecca suffered during the recession as consumers pulled back on their discretionary spending. But with people now feeling more confident about the economy, consumers that stayed away from casinos are returning and those continued to visit but limited their spending are beginning to spend more.

MGM Resorts lost \$93 million, or 19 cents per share, for the period ended June 30. That compares with a loss of \$145.5 million, or 30 cents per share, a year ago. Excluding charges of 23 cents per share in the latest quarter, it earned 4 cents per share.

Analysts polled by FactSet predicted adjusted earnings of a penny per share. Shares climbed 97 cents, or 5.9 percent, to \$17.52 a half-hour before the market open. Revenue for the Las Vegas company rose 7 percent to \$2.48 billion from \$2.32 billion, as people spent more on gambling, lodging, food and drinks. Wall Street expected \$2.42 billion in revenue. At MGM China, revenue rose 18 percent to \$835 million. □

US job openings rise in June, but hiring falls

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers in June advertised the most jobs in five years but hired fewer workers, a mixed sign for the recovering job market.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that job openings rose 29,000 in June from May to 3.94 million. That's the most since May 2008.

Total hiring, however, declined 289,000 to 4.2 million. That's down from a year earlier and the biggest one-month drop in hiring since June 2010.

The job market is improving, largely because layoffs have fallen to prerecession levels. But while employers are no longer cutting jobs, many remain reluctant to hire in the face of tax increases, federal spending cuts and slower global growth.

The report on Job Openings and Labor Turnover comes after the government said on Friday that employers added 162,000 jobs in July, the fewest in four months. Last week's

report showed all jobs added, minus the number of people who were laid off, quit or retired. The unemployment rate fell to a four-year low 7.4 percent in July from 7.6 percent in June. Competition for jobs still re-

cally 2 to 1. The biggest increase in openings came in professional and business services, a category that includes management and administrative jobs. Openings for retail and construction jobs were also

cludes music clubs and tourist attractions.

Layoffs dropped by 215,000 to 1.5 million in June. The reduced layoffs helped "compensate for the lackluster and uneven pace of new hiring," Terry Sheehan, an economic analyst with Stone & McCarthy, wrote in a research note.

In a weak job market, few workers are willing to quit their jobs. The number of those quitting in June fell 73,000 from May to fewer than 2.2 million. When the economy is strong, 2.5 million to 3 million workers quit their jobs every month.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Vice Chair Janet Yellen have both said that they monitor the job openings report for signs that the job market is improving in a sustainable way. If the Fed sees improvement in the economy, it is likely to scale back its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases. The bond buying is meant to keep long-term interest rates low and encourage borrowing and spending. □



Job seeker Shawanda Strother shakes hands with recruiter George McGlone III after a meeting at a career fair, in King of Prussia, Pa. The Labor Department said Tuesday, August 06, 2013, that job openings rose 29,000 in June from May to 3.94 million. That's the most since May 2008.

(AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

mains tight. In June, there were three unemployed people for every job opening. That's down from a peak four years ago of nearly 7 to 1. In a healthy economy, the ratio is typi-

up. But employers in manufacturing, health care and government posted fewer jobs in June.

Hiring fell in every industry except arts, entertainment and recreation, which in-

Fed member: Bond buys likely to slow later in year

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Federal Reserve voting member said Tuesday the central bank is "quite likely" to start reducing its bond purchases later this year but that any change hinges on the economy showing improvement.

Charles Evans, president of the Fed's Chicago regional bank, held off saying which month the Fed could begin to scale back its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases. But he did not rule out the Fed's next meeting on Sept. 17-18, during an interview with reporters.

"Our adjustment to asset purchases will be conditional on our outlook materializing," Evans said. "We are not on a pre-set course."

The bond purchases have kept long-term interest rates low, encouraging more borrowing and spending.

Evans said the purchases could be slowed stages and that the program could end by the middle of next year, if unemployment falls to around 7 percent. His remarks were in line with previous comments made by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke.

The unemployment rate fell

in July to 7.4 percent, down from 7.6 percent in June. The economy has been adding jobs at a steady but inconsistent pace this year. In July, employers added 162,000 jobs. While solid, that's much slower than the average pace of 192,000 new jobs a month added so far this year. And many of the jobs added last month were low-paying or part-time.

The U.S. economy grew at a sluggish annual rate of 1.4 percent in the first half of the year. But Evans forecasts that overall economic growth could accelerate to an annual rate of around 2.5 percent in the

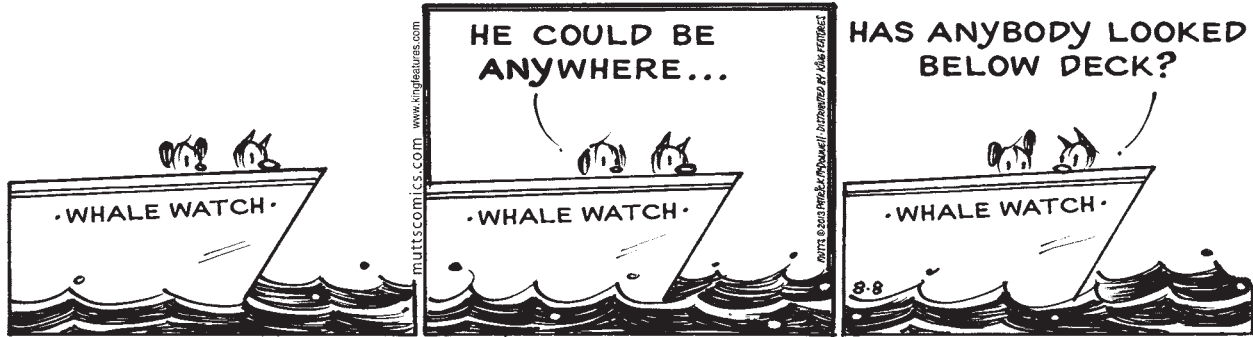
second half of this year.

And stronger trade report released Tuesday has private economists predicting that growth in the April-June quarter could be revised up sharply from the 1.7 percent annual pace reported last week.

Even if the bond program ends next year, Evans said the Fed will likely have purchased at least \$1.2 trillion in mortgage and Treasury bonds since September 2012.

Evans said the program has been "quite successful," countering critics who charge that it has done little to boost economic growth. □

Mutts



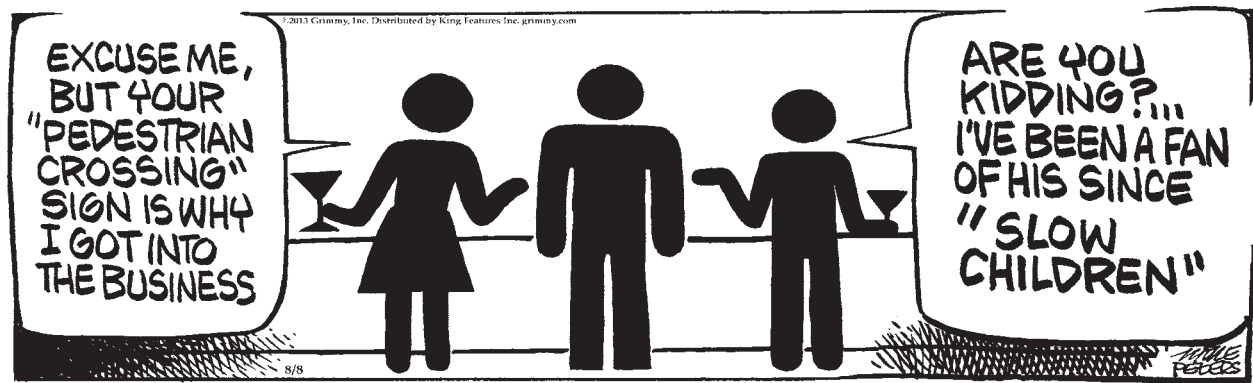
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		7		8				
	4			9	5	6		
2							3	
					8		5	
3	5						9	6
	2		6					
	6							8
		8	4	3			7	
				7		4		

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	1	4	5	2	3	7	9	6
7	2	6	1	9	4	8	5	3
3	5	9	6	8	7	4	1	2
2	9	5	7	4	8	3	6	1
1	8	7	3	6	2	9	4	5
4	6	3	9	5	1	2	8	7
5	7	8	2	1	9	6	3	4
9	3	1	4	7	6	5	2	8
6	4	2	8	3	5	1	7	9

ACROSS

- Instrument for an angel
- Eyeglasses, for short
- Havana's land
- Corrupt
- Necklace bead
- Willing to listen and reconsider
- Popular flower
- Numerical comparison
- "The ___ of the Rings"; Tolkien trilogy
- Cardigan
- Bouncy
- That woman
- Drop in on
- See eye to eye
- Fleur-de-___; iris
- Written slander
- ___ off; irritated
- Pale
- Install new shoe bottoms
- Hotel
- Palaces
- Physicians' org.
- Very well-to-do
- Afternoon rest
- Obama's title: abbr.
- Chaucer's "Canterbury ___"
- Small dowel
- Army chaplain
- Narrow candle
- Food fish
- Sideways football pass
- Cowboy seats
- Small bills
- Epic by Homer
- Theater box
- Mixer speed
- Windowsill, e.g.
- Margin
- Hooting birds
- Ermine
- Writing table

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
			24			25						
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37				38			39			40		
41			42			43			44			
45					46			47				
		48		49			50					
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58				59		60			61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/8/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

RUDER	OWLS	JITCH
INANE	NOAH	MALI
MITTS	SODA	PLOD
STEEPLES	PERUSE	
RIOT	REVISES	
PRESTO	BIDES	
RAW	ENDED	NOBLE
ONES	SINEW	NEED
STRIP	SCRAM	TAG
TEACH	RETAKE	
RITUALS	KENO	
ASWARM	PASTIMES	
BAIT	OMIT	OLIVE
BANE	SANE	RENEW
ICED	TEES	STIRS

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8/8/13

DOWN

- His and ___
- Declare openly
- Ascend
- Happy

- Unrestrained activity; binge
- Juicy fruit
- Dine
- Emergency
- Spills one's broth
- Intestinal ailment
- Come ___; find
- Floating piece of a glacier
- Actor Griffith
- Definite article
- Makes angry
- Wine merchant
- Lopsided
- Italian seaport & birthplace of Columbus
- Of the kidneys
- ___ Vegas, Nev.
- Two-by-four
- ___ Fudd; Bugs Bunny's foe
- Rent long-term
- Fistful of cash
- Pelosi or Boehner: abbr.

- Actor Romero
- Fail to keep up
- Hates
- Spanked
- Bit of hamster food
- Pea casing
- Buckets
- Student at

- West Point
- Gray wolf
- Once again
- Greenish blue
- Long story
- Ore deposit
- Breakfast order
- Look for
- Wedding words

Yemen

Continued from page 8

In Sanaa, residents awoke to the sound of an aircraft overhead. Officials said it was American, and photos posted on Instagram appeared to show a P-3 Orion, a manned surveillance aircraft.

The rare overflight of the capital came shortly before the announcements of the evacuations.

The Yemeni military helicopter was shot down by a missile over the al-Qaida stronghold of Wadi Ubida in central Yemen, officials said. The helicopter was flying from Sanaa to Marib province, officials said. The eight who were killed, including a military commander, were part of a military force guarding oil installations in the province.

The Yemeni officials who provided the information on the suspected drone, the helicopter downing and the security in the capital all spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. □



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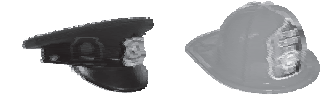
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DI NOS E TA!

Evidence suggests new bird flu spread among people

MARIA CHENG

AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Chinese scientists have found the strongest evidence yet that a new bird flu strain is sometimes able to spread from person to person, but they are emphasizing that the virus still does not transmit easily.

The new bird flu strain, known as H7N9, was first reported by Chinese authorities in March. As of the end of May, there were 132 cases and 37 deaths in China and Taiwan linked to the virus.

Health officials suspect patients were most likely infected by birds in live animal markets but acknowledged there were probably sporadic cases of the virus spreading among humans.

Except for a single case reported last month, the infections appear to have stopped since Chinese authorities took measures to slow the virus, including shutting down live markets across the country.

In the new study, Chinese researchers interviewed the family and close friends of a father and daughter both killed by H7N9 in eastern China to figure out how the virus might have spread between them. Both patients lived in the same household, were critically ill during the investigation and could not be interviewed.

The father, 60, was in charge of buying food for the family and bought six live quails before falling sick. His daughter, 32, rarely left the residential district where they lived and didn't have any known contact with birds, except for two black swans raised by the property owners.

The daughter took care



A vender holds a chicken at a chicken whole sale market in this Tuesday April 2, 2013 file photo in Shanghai, China.

Associated Press

of her father when he became ill, without wearing any protective equipment. She fell sick several days afterward and died one month later. The bird flu viruses isolated from the father and daughter were nearly genetically identical.

There is no definitive test to prove when a virus has spread from human-to-human, but scientists consider matching viruses and eliminating other ways the virus might have spread to be convincing evidence. Scientists also tested 43 contacts of the two patients; none had H7N9.

"In this cluster, the virus was able to transmit from person-to-person," wrote Xian Qi of the Jiangsu Province Center for Disease Control and Prevention, who was the lead author of the study.

The scientists concluded the transmission was "limited and non-sustainable." The paper was published

online Tuesday in the journal BMJ.

"It is also notable that the transmission occurred between blood relatives," said Dr. Peter Horby, a bird flu expert at Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Hanoi, Vietnam, in a state-

ment. Horby, who was not involved in the latest study, noted there is some evidence that genetic factors may make some people more susceptible to bird flu. In an accompanying commentary in the BMJ, experts said similar patterns

had been seen with other types of bird flu, including H5N1, another feared bird flu strain that first emerged in 1996 and has since killed millions of chickens. It has sickened more than 600 people and caused 377 deaths, mostly in Asia.

"To observe some transmission of H7N9 from human-to-human...does not necessarily indicate the virus is on course" to spark a pandemic, wrote James Rudge of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who is based at Mahidol University in Thailand, and Richard Coker of the National University of Singapore.

Still, Rudge and Coker noted several worrying features about H7N9, such as its ability go undetected in birds before sickening humans. They also warned officials to be on guard for a possible return of H7N9 in the winter; flu viruses typically spread more easily in cold weather.

"The threat posed by H7N9 has by no means passed," they said. □

U.S. report card for 2012's climate: More warming

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new massive U.S. study says the world in 2012 sweltered with continued signs of climate change. Rising sea levels, snow melt, heat buildup in the oceans, and melting Arctic sea ice and Greenland ice sheets, all broke or nearly broke records, but temperatures only sneaked into the top 10. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Tuesday issued a peer-reviewed 260-page report, which agency chief Kathryn Sullivan calls its annual "checking on the pulse of the planet." The report, written by 384 scientists around the world, compiles data already released, but it puts them in context of what's been happening to Earth over

decades.

"It's critically important to compile a big picture," National Climatic Data Center director Tom Karl says. "The signs that we see are of a warming world." Sullivan says what is noticeable "are remarkable changes in key climate indicators," mentioning dramatic spikes in ocean heat content, a record melt of Arctic sea ice in the summer, and whopping temporary melts of ice in most of Greenland last year. The data also shows a record-high sea level.

The most noticeable and startling changes seen were in the Arctic, says report co-editor Deke Arndt, climate monitoring chief at the data center. Breaking records in the Arctic is so common that it is becoming the new normal, says

study co-author Jackie Richter-Menge of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory.

Karl says when looked at together, all the indicators show a climate that is changing over the decades. Individually, however, the story isn't as simple. Karl says surface temperatures haven't risen in the last 10 years, but he notes that is only a blip in time due to natural variability. When looking at more scientifically meaningful time frames of 30 years, 50 years and more than 100 years, temperatures are rising quite a bit, Karl said. Since records have been kept in 1880, all 10 of the warmest years ever have been in the past 15 years, NOAA records show. □

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This is a Thursday, July 4, 2013 file photo of Jim Carrey leaves a taping of the "Late Show with David Letterman" in New York.

Associated Press

'Kick-Ass 2' director responds to Carrey

LONDON (AP) — "Kick-Ass 2" director Jeff Wadlow is defending his film after star Jim Carrey chose not to promote the action comedy because of its violence. Carrey, who plays vigilante Colonel Stars and Stripes in the sequel to the 2010 hit, has distanced himself from the film, saying the shooting massacre at Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary school changed his perspective. Wadlow says Carrey is as unpredictable in real life as

he is as an actor and "you never know what he is going to do or say." He says he hopes people will see the movie and judge for themselves.

He says that in many ways the movie is less violent than its predecessor, with more hand-to-hand combat and fewer guns. Despite the controversy, Wadlow said Tuesday that Carrey is "fantastic in the movie," and he'd work with him again. □

Peter Sarsgaard says dark characters 'wildly different'

LAURI NEFF

Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Peter Sarsgaard is getting rave reviews for his latest dark characters: A porn star's manipulative husband in the biopic "Lovelace" and the violent yet sympathetic death-row inmate in the AMC series "The Killing." In a recent interview, the actor said connecting with his audience feels like a reward. "It's like, 'Yay, I did a good job! That's fantastic.'"

In "Lovelace," which opens Friday, Sarsgaard is Chuck Traynor, husband of the "Deep Throat" star Linda Lovelace. As Lovelace later alleged, the film shows Traynor coercing his wife into the pornography business and physically and emotionally abusing her, even forcing her to have sex with other men.

Amanda Seyfried, who plays Lovelace, called Sarsgaard's Traynor "malicious and selfish." Castmate Debi Mazar said when in character, Sarsgaard was "terrifying and



In this July 24, 2013 file photo, actor Peter Sarsgaard arrives at the premiere of "Blue Jasmine" in Los Angeles. Sarsgaard also stars in "Lovelace," as Chuck Traynor, the husband of the "Deep Throat" star Linda Lovelace. The film opens nationwide on Aug. 9.

Associated Press

creepy" on set. In TV's "The Killing," which had its season finale Aug. 4, Sarsgaard played Ray

Seward, who swings from fits of uncontrollable rage and maliciously gleeful taunts to surprisingly vulnerable and sympathetic displays while on death row for killing his wife.

While both characters are violent, to Sarsgaard they are "wildly different."

"Ray would not hang out with Chuck for five minutes and would have no respect for him whatsoever," he said.

To Sarsgaard, Chuck is a "lost" man who thinks he's found something real with Lovelace and then turns violent when he "feels like he's losing her" and becomes jealous of the attention she gets. Sarsgaard described Ray as "very disciplined" with "a kind of inner nobility" and "strong ideas about what's right and wrong."

Finding the nuances in seemingly seamy, broken characters is already a specialty for Sarsgaard, who gained notice with his portrayal of edgy characters such as the homophobic John Lotter in "Boys Don't Cry." □

Crime novelist Elmore Leonard suffers stroke



In this Sept. 17, 2012, file photo is author Elmore Leonard at his Bloomfield Township, Mich., home.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Acclaimed crime novelist Elmore Leonard is recovering at a U.S. hospital following a stroke last week.

Leonard's longtime researcher, Gregg Sutter, said Tuesday that family members are guardedly optimistic about the 87-year-old's condition.

Leonard has written 45 Westerns, crime novels and mysteries. Sutter says Leonard has been at work on No. 46.

Many of his books — notably "Out of Sight," "Get Shorty" and "Be Cool" — have become films. "Life of Crime," which is based on Leonard's "The Switch," is to be screened at the Toronto Film Festival next month.

Leonard was given an honorary National Book Award last year. □

'Bachelorette' talks about surprising engagement

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For the past few months, Desiree Hartsock and Chris Siegfried have kept their engagement secret as their season on ABC's "The Bachelorette" played out. So secret, they went by the code names Sonny and Cher.

To stay connected, they saw each other every other week for long weekends, would video chat and talk

on the phone.

"Now we have our own names in our phones," Siegfried said in an interview Tuesday. "It's such a milestone. So many firsts!" The fact that Hartsock picked Siegfried, a mortgage broker, came as a surprise to many viewers. For much of the season, Hartsock said another contestant, Brooks Forrester, was the front-runner. Spoiler websites predicted that Forrester and Hartsock

would end up together.

But with just Forrester, Siegfried and Drew Kenney remaining on the show, Forrester took himself out of the competition, saying he didn't feel the same way about Hartsock.

The finale on Monday night opened with Hartsock heartbroken about being blindsided, even telling host Chris Harrison that she wanted to go home.

She said those feelings were genuine.



This publicity image released by ABC shows Chris Siegfried, left, placing a ring on the finger of Desiree Hartsock during the final rose ceremony on the romance competition series "The Bachelorette," on the season finale that aired Monday, Aug. 5, 2013 on ABC.

Associated Press

"When I was saying I wanted to go home, that's what I wanted to do," the 27-year-old said. But it didn't take long for her to realize that Siegfried was the right guy for her.

"He was always perfect for me but it was almost so easy that it was like, 'Why is he so perfect for me?' You know what I mean? You almost want to dig for more just to see if it's gonna be harder, like if it's gonna be a chase, but (with Siegfried), I didn't want to ever say goodbye to him, and that's when I knew he's the one." Both before the cameras and in person, Siegfried, also 27, doesn't seem troubled that Hartsock also had feelings for another guy so soon before they became engaged.

"I just stayed true to how I felt for her and how I felt about the process. ... I just did a really good job compartmentalizing everything."

The couple said they had to talk to members of his family and reassure them that they are happy together.

"It was maybe a little hard at first but they knew the outcome," Hartsock said.

"She's talked with my mom and she's talked with my family," added Siegfried.

Hartsock's last reality TV romance ended in heartbreak. The bridal stylist competed for the affection of Sean Lowe on "The Bachelor," but was sent home after a disastrous date.

She's moving from Los Angeles to Seattle to be with Siegfried, and although they want an "intimate" wedding when the time is right, they're not ruling out the idea of televising their nuptials like some former "Bachelor" and "Bachelorette" couples have done.

"Next summer, we'll decide if that's something we see fit," said Siegfried. □

Rep: Jazz keyboardist George Duke dies at 67

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — George Duke, the Grammy-winning jazz keyboardist and producer whose sound infused acoustic jazz, electronic jazz, funk, R&B and soul in a 40-year-plus career, has died. He was 67. A representative for Duke said the performer died Monday night in Los Angeles. Duke was being treated for chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Duke's son, Rashid, thanked his father's fans in a statement Tuesday.

"The outpouring of love and support that we have received from my father's friends, fans and the entire music community has been overwhelming," he said. "Thank you all for your concern, prayers and support."

Duke was born in San Rafael, California. He appeared on a number of Frank Zappa albums and played in the Don Ellis Orchestra, Cannonball Adderley's band and with jazz musician Stanley Clarke. Duke also played keyboard on Michael Jackson's multiplatinum 1979 album, "Off the Wall."

His wife, Corine, died from cancer last year. He was unable to make music for months, but he overcame his grief to create the album "DreamWeaver," released last month. It fea-



In this July 13, 2009 file photo, US jazz artist George Duke performs on the Stravinski Hall stage at the 43rd Montreux Jazz Festival, in Montreux, Switzerland.

Associated Press

tures a fusion of sounds and a touching tribute to his late wife on the romantic piano-driven ballad "Missing You."

He began taking piano lessons when he was 4 years old, after seeing Duke Ellington perform.

"I don't remember it too well ... but my mother told me I went crazy," Duke said on his website. "I ran around saying, 'Get me a piano, get me a piano!'" Duke said he learned a lot about music from going to church, which helped him add a funk style to his sound. He played in high-school jazz groups and was heavily influenced by Miles Davis. He earned degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and San Francisco State University.

On tour as part of the George Duke Trio, he per-

formed in Los Angeles at a show where Adderley, Zappa and Quincy Jones were in attendance. Duke soon joined Zappa on a tour for a year in 1969. He joined Adderley's band in 1971. He met Clarke through Adderley, and they formed the Clarke/Duke Project. Their song "Sweet Baby" was a Top 20 hit on the Billboard pop charts.

Duke became a solo artist in 1976 and released more than 30 solo albums. He also produced for Miles Davis, Smokey Robinson, Gladys Knight, Dionne Warwick and Natalie Cole.

He worked as musical director for the Soul Train Music Awards and other special events. He also scored songs on soundtracks for "The Five Heartbeats" and "Karate Kid III." □

Police: Usher's son nearly drowns in pool

ATLANTA (AP) — Authorities say the son of Grammy-winning R&B singer Usher nearly drowned in an Atlanta pool. Atlanta police spokesman Carlos Campos said in a report Tuesday that the 5-year-old boy fell to the bottom of pool and became stuck in the drain. Campos says it happened Monday afternoon behind a home in downtown Atlanta. Campos says the housekeeper tried to get

to the boy, but was unable to pull him from the drain. The boy was eventually pulled from the pool, and given CPR by a man who was working at the home as an audio-visual subcontractor.

Campos says the boy was "conscious, breathing and alert" when firefighters arrived before 4 p.m. local time. He is at the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Scottish Rite. □

Marriage And Minorities



CHARLES M. BLOW
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We often hear that marriage is a panacea for our problems - as a nation as a whole, and especially for the black community, in which more than 70 percent of children are now born to unmarried women. Less discussed are the societal factors contributing to this phenomenon.

Let's start with this: while marriage may be losing a bit of its luster for some, it is still a desirable institution for most.

According to a Gallup poll released Friday, a majority of American adults (54 percent) are married. Another fifth have been married or did not classify a marital status. Yet another fifth has never married but wants to.

And among younger people, nonwhites were less likely than whites to be married, but they were more likely to say that they wanted to be. Only 6 percent of whites and 12 percent of nonwhites said that they had never been married and didn't want to get married.

So most Americans - both whites and minorities - still believe in marriage, but there are factors working against marriage for many, factors that need to be acknowledged. One is mass incarceration.

In the two decades preceding the Great Recession, the American prison population nearly tripled, according to the Pew Center on the States. And make no mistake: mass incarceration rips at the fabric of families and whole communities.

According to the 2011 book "A Plague of Prisons" by Ernest Drucker, a public health expert: - "The risk of divorce is high among men going to prison, reaching 50 percent within a few years after incarceration."

- "The marriage rate for men incarcerated in prisons and jails is lower than the American average. For blacks and Hispanics, it is lower still."

- "Unmarried couples in which the father has been incarcerated are 37 percent less likely to be married one year after the child's birth than similar couples in which the father has never been incarcerated."

Related to mass incarceration is the disastrous drug war, which essentially has become a war on marijuana waged primarily against young black

men, even though they use the drug at nearly the same rate as whites.

Then there's the Aid Elimination Provision of the Higher Education Act, a provision that took effect in 2000. It denied financial aid to students with drug convictions. A couple of years after it took effect, the American Civil Liberties Union called the law "unjust and counterproductive" and "both morally wrong and unconstitutional."

Researchers at Cornell found last year that the provision "had a large negative impact on the college attendance of students with drug convictions" - that students who were affected delayed college enrollment or were made "less likely to ever enroll in college," among other things.

Add to that the explosion in student loan debt, which has passed the trillion-dollar mark, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Such debt is now held by a record one in five households, said a Pew report last year.

This debt crisis is particularly hard on black students. According to a report last year by the Center for American Progress: "African-American and Latino students are especially saddled with student debt, with 81 percent of African-American students and 67 percent of Latino students who earned bachelor's degrees leaving school with debt."

This compares to 64 percent of white students who graduate with debt."

The debt burden is having a significant impact on marriage. A survey published in May by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants showed that 15 percent of respondents delayed marriage because of student loan debt.

Furthermore, for the poorest Americans there are marriage penalties built into many of our welfare programs. As the Heritage Foundation has pointed out: "Marriage penalties occur in many means-tested programs, such as food stamps, public housing, Medicaid, day care and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. The welfare system should be overhauled to reduce such counterproductive incentives."

This is not to explain away why people don't marry or delay marriage or have children before marriage, but to give the discussion context.

In a report financed by the Department of Justice a decade ago, Donald Braman, a George Washington University law professor, argued, "For generations, social institutions from slavery and segregation to broadly punitive criminal sanctions have borne down unremittingly on poor and minority families and communities."

One can't bemoan the breakdown of the family - particularly the black family - without at least acknowledging the structural and systematic forces working against its cohesion. □



Fed Fatale: Sex, Money And Gravitas



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Can a woman effectively run the Federal Reserve? That shouldn't even be a question. And Janet Yellen, the vice chairwoman of the Fed's Board of Governors, isn't just up to the job; by any objective standard, she's the best-qualified person in America to take over when Ben Bernanke steps down as chairman.

Yet there are not one but two sexist campaigns underway against Yellen. One is a whisper campaign whose sexism is implicit, while the other involves raw misogyny. And both campaigns manage to combine sexism with very bad economic analysis.

Let's start with the more extreme, open campaign. Last week, The New York Sun published an editorial attacking Yellen titled "The Female Dollar." The editorial took it for granted that the Fed has been following disastrously inflationary monetary policies for years, even though actual inflation is at a 50-year low. And it warned that things would get even worse if the dollar were to become merely "gender-backed." I am not making this up.

True, The Sun is a marginal publication, with strong gold-bug tendencies, and nobody would pay much attention if the rest of the right had ignored or distanced itself from that editorial. In fact, however, The Wall Street Journal immediately followed up with its own editorial along

the same lines, in the course of which it approvingly quoted The Sun piece, female dollar and all.

The other campaign against Yellen has been subtler, involving repeated suggestions - almost always off the record - that she lacks the "gravitas" to lead the Fed. What does that mean? Well, suppose we were talking about a man with Yellen's credentials: distinguished academic work, leader of the Council of Economic Advisers, six years as president of the San Francisco Fed, a record of working effectively with colleagues at the Board of Governors. Would anyone suggest that a man with those credentials was somehow unqualified for office?

Sorry, but it's hard to escape the conclusion that gravitas, in this context, mainly means possessing a Y chromosome.

Both anti-Yellen campaigns, then, involve unmistakable sexism, and should be condemned for that reason. As it happens, however, both campaigns have another problem, too: They're based on bad economic analysis. In the case of the "female dollar" types, the wrongheadedness of the economics is as raw and obvious as the sexism. The people shouting that the Fed is "debasing the dollar" have been warning of runaway inflation any day now for almost five years, and they have been wrong every step of the way. Worse, they have shown no willingness to admit having been wrong, let alone to revise their views in the face of experience. They are, in short, the last people in the world you should listen to when it comes to monetary policy.

The wrongheadedness of the gravitas crowd, like its sexism, is subtler. But to the extent that having gravitas means something other than being male, it means being what I like to call a Very Serious Person - the kind of person who talks a lot about the need to make tough deci-

sions, which somehow always involves demanding sacrifices on the part of ordinary families while treating the wealthy with kid gloves. And here's the thing: The Very Serious People have been almost as consistently wrong, although not as spectacularly, as the inflation hysteresis. This has been obviously true in the case of budget policy, where the Serious People hijacked the national conversation, shifting it away from job creation to deficits, on the grounds that we were facing an imminent fiscal crisis - which somehow keeps not coming.

But it has also been true for monetary policy. The Wall Street Journal (news department, not editorial) recently surveyed the forecasting records of top policymakers at the Fed, whom it divided into "hawks" (officials who keep warning that the Fed is doing too much to fight unemployment) and "doves" (who warn that it's doing too little). It found that the doves made consistently better forecasts, with the best forecaster of all being the most prominent of the doves - Janet Yellen.

The point is that while the gravitas types like to think of themselves as serious men (and I do mean men) who are willing to do what needs to be done, recent history suggests that they're actually men who are eager to prove their seriousness by doing what doesn't need to be done, at the public's expense.

Also, there was a time not long ago when almost everyone in the gravitas crowd, if asked who possessed that mystical quality in its purest form, would surely have answered "Alan Greenspan." How well did that turn out?

So is Janet Yellen the only possible candidate to be the next leader of the Fed? Of course not. But the case for someone else should be made on the merits - and, so far, that hasn't been what's happening. □

Forbidden Border:

Doctors In Israel Quietly Tend To Syria's Wounded

ISABEL KERSHNER

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NAHARIYA, Israel - The 3-year-old girl cried "Mama, Mama" over and over as a stranger rocked her and tried to comfort her. She had been brought from Syria to the government hospital in this northern Israeli town five days earlier, her face blackened by what doctors said was probably a firebomb or an improvised explosive.

and rebels has raged in recent months in areas close to the Israeli-held Golan Heights, scores of Syrian casualties have been discreetly spirited across the hostile frontier for what is often lifesaving treatment in Israel, an enemy country. Most are men in their 20s or 30s, many of them with gunshot wounds, who presumably were involved in the fighting. But in recent weeks there have been

But the Israeli authorities have sanctioned this small, low-profile humanitarian response to the tragedy taking place in Syria, balancing decades of hostility with the demands of proximity and neighborliness. "Most come here unconscious with head injuries," said Dr. Masad Barhoum, the director general of the Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya, on the Mediterranean coast 6 miles south

the closed intensive care wing, on the condition that no details that could compromise their safety were published.

Like many Israeli hospitals, this one serves a mixed population of Jews and Arabs; its staff includes Arabic-speaking doctors, nurses and social workers. In the lobby, a glass display case contains the remnants of a Katyusha rocket that was fired from Leba-

and proud to be a citizen of a country that allowed him to treat every person equally. He said the cost of the treatment so far had amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars and would be paid for by the Israeli government.

Since late March, almost 100 Syrians have arrived at two hospitals in Galilee. Forty-one severely wounded Syrians have been treated here at the Western Galilee Hospital, which has a new neurosurgical unit as well as pediatric intensive care facilities. Two of them have died, 28 have recovered and been transferred back to Syria, and 11 remain here.

Another 52 Syrians have been taken to the Rebecca Sieff Hospital in the Galilee town of Safed. The latest, a 21-year-old man with gunshot and shrapnel wounds, arrived Saturday. A woman, 50, arrived Friday with a piece of shrapnel in her heart and was sent to the Rambam hospital in the northern port city of Haifa for surgery.

Little has been revealed about how they get here, other than that the Israeli military runs the technical side of the operation. The doctors say all they know is that Syrian patients arrive by military ambulance and that the hospital calls the army to come pick them up when they are ready to go back to Syria.

Now, efforts are under way to bring over relatives to help calm the unaccompanied children.

When the 13-year-old arrived, she was in a state of fear and high anxiety, according to Dr. Zeev Zonis, the head of the pediatric intensive care unit here.

"A large part of our treatment was to try to embrace her in a kind of virtual hug," he said.

Days later, the girl's aunt arrived from Syria. She began to care for the Syrian children here, living and sleeping with them in the intensive care unit. The staff and volunteers donated clothes and gifts. □



An Israeli girl, left, exchanges smiles with a Syrian girl who suffered severe injuries to her face and legs when a shell exploded in her Syrian village, at the Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya, Israel, Aug. 4, 2013. As fighting rages between Syrian government forces and rebels in areas close to the Israeli-held Golan Heights, scores of injured Syrians have been discreetly spirited into Israel, an enemy country, for what is often lifesaving treatment.

(Rina Castelnovo/The New York Times)

In the next bed, a girl, 12, lay in a deep sleep. She had arrived at the pediatric intensive care unit with a severe stomach wound that had already been operated on in Syria, and a hole in her back.

Another girl, 13, has been here more than a month recovering from injuries that required complex surgeries to her face, arm and leg. She and her brother, 9, had gone to the supermarket in their village when a shell struck. Her brother was killed in the attack.

As fighting between Syrian government forces

more civilians with blast wounds, among them women and children who have arrived alone and traumatized.

Israel has repeatedly declared a policy of nonintervention in the Syrian civil war, other than its readiness to strike at stocks of advanced weapons it considers a threat to its security. Officials have also made clear that Israel would not open its increasingly fortified border to an influx of refugees, as Turkey or Jordan have, given that Israel and Syria officially remain in a state of war.

of the Lebanese border. "They wake up after a few days or whenever and hear a strange language and see strange people," he said. "If they can talk, the first question is, 'Where am I?' " He added, "I am sure there is an initial shock when they hear they are in Israel." The identity of the patients is closely guarded, so they will not be in danger when they return to Syria. Soldiers sit outside the wards where the adults are to protect them from possible threats and prying journalists. But doctors allowed access to the children in

non and hit the hospital's eye department during the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. The rocket penetrated four floors but nobody was injured because all the north-facing wards had been moved underground.

With more than 100,000 people estimated to have died in the Syrian civil war, Barhoum, an Arab Christian citizen of Israel, acknowledged that the Israeli medical assistance was "a drop in the ocean."

But he said he was proud of the level of treatment his teams could provide